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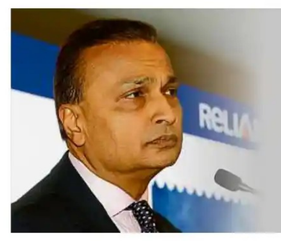

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

FROM THE HOUSE OF MYSORE SANDAL SOAP

His Highness Sri Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar
The Maharaja of Mysore

A visionary leadership reimagines the glorious legacy of a 108-year-old soap.

We are proud and honoured to present to you the pride of Karnataka, a soap that holds the heritage of a 108-year-old story, in a new, royal look. An icon that's been loved for generations is moving forward while still carrying the legacy fragrance and the goodness of natural sandalwood oil.

KSDL has successfully transformed its product portfolio of Mysore Sandal, under its able leadership.

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Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Sri M.B. Patil
Hon'ble Minister for Large & Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development
Government of Karnataka

Sri Appaji C.S. Nadagouda
Hon'ble MLA, Muddebihal Constituency & Chairman, K.S.D.L.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Tamannaah Bhatia, who has graciously accepted to be the face of the brand, as it enters its next glorious chapter.

Here's to ushering in of a new era, one where the new generation will embrace the tradition of a glorious past.

* 100% NATURAL SANDALWOOD OIL

*The only soap with 100% pure Natural Sandalwood oil

Why your child requires a long sampling period

PAVAN SONI

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.
- Khalil Gibran

Sample this: Half of all the careers that would be in vogue two decades from now haven't been invented! Yet scores of parents don't get tired of asking, 'What's the best career for my child?' They seem more urgent about a definitive answer than about questions concerning a life partner or more enduring undertakings.

The query has an implicit assumption that there's 'a career', or 'the career', or, for the lucky few, 'the dream career'. Well, there could be, except that it must be discovered, painstakingly so, for both an individual's capabilities and market possibilities are ever evolving. The best parents and teachers can do is provide a long sampling period for their students. Here's why.

From time immemorial, one of the fascinations of our species has been child prodigies. A prodigy is someone who performs at a master's level while still a child. Prodigies are more likely to be seen in fields like music, mathematics, or chess than in literary or scientific studies. Yet very few prodigies blossom into adult geniuses. They experience burnout from early pressure, face social isolation due to their abilities, lose interest once they master their narrow fields, and, in many cases, fail to develop coping mechanisms and a work ethic to meet the expectations placed on them.

'The skill of being a gifted child involves mastery of a domain,' explains the social psychologist Dean Keith Simonton. 'While the skill involved in being a genius involves the transformation of a domain.' As per Wharton's Adam Grant: 'Although child prodigies are often rich in both talent and ambition, what holds them back from moving the world forward is that they don't learn to be original'.

The prodigies, it seems, direct all their might to a narrow set of learnable traits and skills and saturate faster than others, but upon achieving that state, they get trapped. Very few follow their head start with lifelong reinvention. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Pablo Picasso were two such rarities. What made them exceptional? A long sampling period and deferred specialisation.

Imagine a child who doesn't seem to stick to a specific course and keeps dabbling with multiple undertakings — most left unfinished and rarely mastered. The conventional wisdom would declare such an adolescent not amounting to much, for she will be left behind the 'initiated'. But in a life exceeding eighty years, on average, and a career breaching half a century, one can afford to be wasteful early on.

Wasteful in a clever sense of sampling multiple fields, tasting possible career options, and being provisionally committed to a course of action. Any advanced specialisation comes at the cost of leaving a lot out (remember, focus is the act of omission and not commission), and if the fortunes later turn, the child is left haplessly entangled in her web of expertise.

The contrast between Andre Agassi and Roger Federer is instructive. Agassi, who picked up tennis at age three, owing to a super-human push from his Olympian dad, lived a life of a tormented genius, forever hating the game that gave him his name. Federer, on the contrary, was dabbling with soccer years before settling for tennis. His years playing a wide range of sports gave him dexterity, sportsmanship, and physical and mental stamina, which he brought to tennis, leaving the game transformed by his elegance.

The difference is much starker in how the former ATP No. 1 stars live in retirement. A longer sampling period and deferred specialisation not only offer a broader worldview and coping mechanisms, but also sustain diverse career possibilities. And this is non-trivial when your life is an enterprise of careers, and a career is an enterprise of activities, however loosely coupled.

Our schools and households must be designed to provide children with broader exposure. The typical split among the arts, science, and commerce, so common in the Indian education system, is a vestige of the industrial era and Macaulay's regime. Which problem in real life is purely art, or purely science, or purely commerce? It's always a wicked one, with its multiple dimensions, warranting a battery of skills.

The prodigies excel in very narrowly defined fields and are valuable only as long as those fields are socially acceptable and economically rewarded. But we are talking of longer time horizons, where we need mental dexterity and physical stamina that one gathers by not committing early on.

'You waste years by not being able to waste hours,' lamented the famous behavioural economist, Amos Tversky. His statement is a wake-up call for teachers and parents who still push their wards onto the narrow rails of medicine, engineering, the civil services, chartered accountancy, or the remnants of the bygone era.

They are not even safe bets, let alone wise ones. Let your child's experimentative streak run amok, at least for a while. Your dream career may be your child's trap, for she's unique in every which way. I would be pleased with someone still unclear at age 30 about what she wants after trying most of the possibilities, rather than someone who appears clear at age 22, whose clarity is mostly borrowed rather than earned.

Let them be. Just be around, but by the side and not in the front.

(The author is an academic based in Bengaluru)

Teachers as readers

Reading positively impacts teaching practice, but time remains a major impediment for teachers to read, writes Aruna Sankaranarayanan

Schools have always exhorted students to read. At Crayon Preschool in Bengaluru, books are always given as prizes or gifts. A CBSE school in Faridabad rewards children who borrow the maximum number of books from the library. Students can be found curled up with books during the dedicated silent reading time at The Atelier in Bengaluru.

Even as schools actively champion reading in students, do they nurture reading in teachers? What are the reading habits of teachers?

A broader definition of reading

For Madhu Prakash, the Academic Coordinator, Crayon Preschool, reading is a "stress-buster." Though she hasn't been formally diagnosed, Madhu feels she's dyslexic. Although reading, especially dense tomes, remains a challenge, she pushes herself to read for at least fifteen to twenty minutes every day. She prefers short articles, particularly those related to education and psychology. She reads every night before going to bed because it soothes her. Likewise, Pratima, a teacher, counsellor and bibliophile in Faridabad, turns to reading when she is nettled by something. She tries to squeeze in an hour every day and devours both fiction and non-fiction.

Neelam Dixit, co-founder of NeeAr, Nurture Equity Education Awareness & Research, a consultancy for schools, reads newspapers, magazines, and books for at least half an hour every morning. She finds it difficult to read many pages at a stretch and prefers to reflect on short extracts at a time. At night, she reads research papers as it gives her something to mull over while falling asleep.

Vani Ramachandran, a primary years teacher at The Atelier, reads widely across a gamut of genres almost every day. While she has always been an avid reader, she experienced a period during which she questioned the purpose and intent of reading.

Vani believes that purists define reading in a rather narrow way by limiting it to books, particularly highbrow ones. However, she argues that we need a less judgmental approach to what constitutes reading, including any engagement with the printed word. So, reading can encompass anything from labels to recipes to letters to instructions to articles to books. If we consider reading to involve only books, we set the bar too high, which often dissuades many children and adults from seeing themselves as readers.

Developing a reading community

Both Madhu and Pratima enjoy being part of a community that discusses books. Madhu has formed an online book club with relatives, while Pratima is part of a WhatsApp group that exchanges book recommendations. However, neither of them had luck trying to persuade their colleagues to read more.

While Madhu tried to initiate a book club for teachers at her school, the suggestion wasn't met with enthusiasm. Pratima says that her colleagues eke out time to scroll on social media, but don't prioritise reading. However, she piqued the curiosity of some teachers after delivering a presentation on *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. Neelam also finds it hard to coax teachers to read. Most of them are pressed for time and are intent only on completing the syllabus. She finds that teachers of Indian Boards tend to be more textbook-focused, whereas teachers of international schools that follow the International Baccalaureate curriculum are more open to reading and learning from other sources.

Vani's school has a vibrant reading culture among teachers, who often carry books. She often discusses books with her colleagues, particularly those related to pedagogy or child development. Reading is also baked into their professional development sessions, with time allotted for silent reading for teachers.

All the teachers unequivocally stated that reading has positively impacted their teaching practice. Vani states that *Playground Politics* by Stanley Greenspan and Jacqueline Salmon helped her observe and make sense of the dynamics of childhood relationships. Reading Creating Classrooms for Authors and Inquirers by Kathy Short helped Vani invite children to generate ideas to write their own books. For Pratima, Dibs in *Search of Self* by Virgina Axline and *To Sir with Love* by E R Braithwaite have influenced how she engages with children.

Madhu says that reading has broadened her worldview and helps her view situations from multiple perspectives. Neelam directs parents of children with learning delays to the writings of Helen Keller or T*oto Chan* by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi to help them appreciate their child's strengths.

What can schools do to create a reading culture for teachers on campus? Because time is a major impediment, schools should reduce the administrative burden on teachers so that they can allocate time to reading. Having teachers present the books that inspired them, or creating a space for discussions of interesting details they read, can move the needle in the right direction. Given limited budgets, schools may at least stock books on pedagogy and psychology, as most teachers are keen to improve their craft.

(The author is a freelance counsellor)

BULLETIN BOARD

Counselling course

Sugamya Counselling Centre is launching the 2nd batch of their Practical Aspects of Counselling online course. This 50+ hours course is open to all and is useful for teachers, budding counsellors, UG/PG Psychology students, parents and people in roles dealing with people. Call/Whatsapp 9113070060 or fill the form https://bit.ly/3Lrz6Sp for details.

React Native development

LocalVibez LLP is hiring a React Native development intern to work remotely. Students with knowledge of CSS, HTML and React Native can apply by March 6. The stipend is Rs 8,000-10,000/ month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/g4QRJ.

Product management internship

AI Chroney is hiring a product management intern to work remotely. Students with knowledge of marketing, product management, and effective communication, and with spoken English proficiency, can apply by March 6. The stipend is Rs 8,000-23,000/ month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/T68vX.

Product and visualisation design

Material Depot is hiring a product and visualisation design intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, Design Thinking, and Image Editing can apply by March 4. The stipend is Rs 20,000 - 25,000/ month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/8KwDg.

Income tax writer internship

ClearTax is hiring a content writer intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of Content Marketing, Income Tax, and Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) can apply by March 6. The stipend is Rs 25,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/Y9aKT.

Embedded internships in GCCs can build work-ready talent

THYAGU VALLIAPPA

India produces over 15 lakh engineers every year. On paper, this should make the country one of the world's most formidable talent engines. In reality, there is a persistent disconnect between qualification and capability. Too many graduates leave campus without the confidence or competence to contribute meaningfully at work.

The problem is not intelligence or ambition, but experience. A large proportion of students never gain sustained, hands-on exposure to real business problems. The gap is not only technical but also psychological. Until students move from asking "Can I do this?" to asserting "I can do this," they remain professionally unready. That shift only happens through application-based learning rooted in real-world problem-solving.

This friction hurts everyone. Companies struggle to find work-ready talent. Colleges see placement outcomes stagnate. Students graduate with degrees but without clarity about their professional readiness.

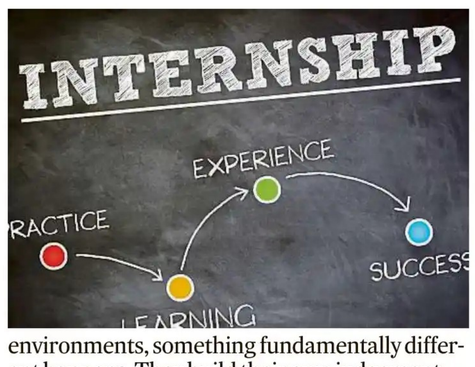
The instinctive response has been to fix internships. But this instinct is misplaced.

What's wrong with internships?

Most internships follow a predictable pattern. Eight to twelve weeks squeezed into summer breaks. The first fortnight is consumed by onboarding and access. The final week is consumed by reports and farewells. What remains is a narrow window of low-risk work, often deliberately designed so that nothing critical breaks if the intern underperforms.

This creates exposure, not expertise. By the time students understand enough context to add value, they are preparing to leave. They return to campus with a resume bullet but without the depth of experience that changes how they think, decide, or solve problems. Professional capability does not develop in short, disconnected bursts.

What makes the difference is proximity and duration. When students spend not weeks but the better part of a year inside real operating



environments, something fundamentally different happens. They build their own judgement, observe how decisions are made under pressure, how teams coordinate, and what quality actually looks like when outcomes matter. This is not classroom knowledge; it is pattern recognition built through sustained exposure to real work.

Short internships help students understand workplace culture. Longer, embedded engagements allow them to move from observing to owning. They work on live projects, see initiatives through end-to-end, and learn how work really gets done when timelines and stakeholders are real.

Integrating internships

India is uniquely positioned to make this shift. More than 1,700 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) already operate across the country, employing nearly 1.9 million professionals. According to a report by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and ANAROCK, this number is projected to exceed 2,400 GCCs by 2030, with nearly 28 million employees. These centres run complex, high-value global operations. What they consistently seek is dependable, work-ready talent.

The opportunity is to move education closer to where work actually happens. Not alongside these centres, but inside them. Students could spend significant portions of their final academic years embedded within real teams, contributing to live projects. The curriculum would be co-designed with industry and aligned with business cycles rather than rigid academic calendars.

This approach is already emerging in pockets. Year-long integrated programs in which students rotate across functions, build real portfolios, and graduate having already demonstrated professional capability are delivering stronger outcomes than traditional internship-led models. The benefits flow both ways. Students gain confidence and competence. Organisations gain early access to proven talent.

Co-located campuses within or near company facilities further strengthen this ecosystem. Faculty, students, and practitioners interact continuously. Curriculum evolves in real time as technology and business needs change. Skills remain current because they are learned in environments where relevance is non-negotiable.

The deeper insight is simple but disruptive. People do not become professionals upon graduation. Becoming a professional is itself a process, and that process must unfold inside professional environments.

Year-long industry integration is not about extending internships. It is about redesigning the talent development architecture. It creates professionals who combine technical depth with practical versatility, individuals who can navigate complexity and drive outcomes from day one.

Organisations scale faster when they use elevators, not steps. In cricket, the all-rounder is prized because balanced capability wins tight games. The same logic applies to talent. Professionals who can think, execute, and adapt become force multipliers. India already has the scale. The models are visible. What remains is execution at the level that India's talent pipeline both demands and deserves.

(The author is an entrepreneur in education sector)

Suggestions? Feedback? Queries?
Write to us:
dheducation@deccanherald.co.in

Why the UAE is on students' radar

SONAL KAPOOR

Something interesting has been taking shape in global education, and students seem to have sensed it before anyone else. The United Arab Emirates, once treated as a side option, has quietly moved into the top tier of destinations for Indian and international students. At first, it felt unexpected. Look closer, and the pattern begins to make sense.

The shift began a few years ago, when visa rules in traditional destinations became unpredictable. Long waiting times and sudden policy changes prompted students to seek alternatives. The country initially appeared on the list as a backup option, but what students found there changed everything: a place closer to home, safe, and genuinely welcoming. They could study in English, meet classmates from around the world, and still find familiar comforts when homesickness set in. A destination that began as a second choice quickly became a confident first.

The UAE's own systems reinforce this confidence. According to the UAE Government Portal, international students can join licensed higher education institutions through a straightforward step-by-step process, and universities are allowed to sponsor a student's visa directly. For families navigating study abroad for the first time, such clarity removes layers of uncertainty.

What students experience after arriving tells an even stronger story. Dubai's Knowledge and Human Development Authority has reported "record growth" across the city's universities, with rising numbers of international students and new institutions entering the sector. When a regulator speaks in those terms, it simply means that universities are getting stronger and that more students trust the system.

The shift reflects changing student priorities. Students today think far beyond the degree. They want stability. They want to improve their circumstances, earn well and support their families. With the visa landscape shifting in traditional destinations, the UAE is offering a real opportunity and clarity.

Germany is also one of the destinations seeing strong momentum. Recent data from the German Academic Exchange Service indicate that 49,483 Indian students were enrolled there in the 2023–24 winter semester, a 15.1 per cent increase in just one year. It's a clear sign that students are gravitating towards places where the process feels predictable, and planning life after graduation is much easier.

Yet the UAE has taken an extra step for high-achieving students. For talented students, the UAE has made the transition much easier. The Golden Residence permits top students and graduates to remain for up to 10 years. For anyone hoping their education will lead straight into a long-term career, that kind of stability is invaluable.

This wave of interest is also shaping how education platforms respond. Sonal explains that Prodigy Finance has expanded its list of supported universities in the UAE as demand from Indian students continues to grow. "Students today have more diverse ambitions, and they want more options. We've opened applications for the Spring intake, and India remains one of our fully supported regions. Students only need to check if their chosen programme or university is listed."

Lastly, all of this paints a clear picture: the UAE is rising not through hype but through structure. Transparent rules, long-term opportunities and a smoother cultural transition are giving students confidence at a time when confidence matters most. It is close to home, full of global talent and, for many, the first place where their future feels both achievable and exciting.

(The author is a chief business officer at a student finance firm)

DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Rahul's ton guides K'taka to win over Mumbai

Smaran scores unbeated 83 in 4-wicket victory; semis against U'khand

Page 13

Pak govt withdraws boycott of India T20WC match

Decision after nudge from B'desh, Sri Lanka

ISLAMABAD/DHAKA, PTI

PCB's demands

- Resumption of bilateral cricket between India and Pakistan
- Tri-series to offset the losses that Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) might have incurred after refusing to travel to India
- Unconfirmed reports also claimed Pakistan had insisted on resumption of the handshake convention and a bigger share of ICC's revenue.

The India-Pakistan match in the T20 World Cup will go ahead as scheduled after Pakistan's government decided to withdraw its boycott call following persuasion from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, ending an impasse that cast a shadow on the ongoing tournament.

The eagerly-anticipated and high-intensity game is scheduled to be held in Colombo on February 15.

"In view of the outcomes achieved in multilateral discussions, as well as the request of friendly countries, the Government of Pakistan hereby directs the Pakistan National Cricket Team to take the field on February 15, 2026, for its scheduled fixture in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup," the Pakistan government stated in a press release.

It was clear that the country would withdraw the boycott after Bangladesh Cricket Board chief Aminul Islam issued a statement in Dhaka urging Pakistan to take the field for the greater good of the game.

"...this decision has been taken with the aim of protecting the spirit of cricket, and to support the continuity of this global sport in all participating nations," the Pakistan government statement added.

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif also received a call from Sri Lanka President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who too urged him to allow the team to play the match.

▸ India-Pak match, Page 5

Quickly

Fresh violence in Manipur

Fresh violence broke out in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Monday after armed miscreants allegedly set fire to houses in Litan are, officials said. Armed groups also fired several rounds in the air, forcing residents to flee to safer areas in the neighbouring district, added the officials.

Details on Page 8

I-T returns to be governed by old rules

Income tax returns to be filed in the upcoming assessment year 2026-27 will continue to be governed by the old Income Tax Act, 1961, even though the new Act will come into effect from April 1, official sources said. The due date for filing of I-T return for non-audit taxpayers for assessment year 2026-27, will be July 31.

Details on Page 12

Soon, you can withdraw PF money via UPI

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is set to introduce a new dedicated mobile application that will enable subscribers to withdraw their Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) amounts directly into their bank accounts using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The app will likely be launched in April, said government sources.

Details on Page 9

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

TODAY'S MATCHES

Namibia vs Holland		@11am
N Zealand vs UAE		@3pm
Pakistan vs USA		@7pm

Won't let anyone obstruct SIR: SC

Seeks Bengal DGP affidavit on EC's plaint on threats

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

SUPREME COURT CONDITIONS

Court directs extension of deadline for scrutiny of documents and objections by at least a week

- Asks state to make available Group B officers for SIR duties, who can replace micro-observers
- Clarifies that final orders on claims and objections can be passed only by Electoral Registration Officers
- Orders Bengal government to ensure that all Group B officers report for duty to District Collector/ERO Tuesday by 5 pm

The Supreme Court on Monday categorically said that it would not allow anyone to create an impediment in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in states, including West Bengal.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and N V Anjaria issued notices to the West Bengal government and sought a personal affidavit of the state DGP, to an affidavit of the Election Commission regarding threats and violence against officials engaged in SIR duties.

"We will not allow anyone to create any impediment in the SIR exercise. It must be clear to the states," the bench said while hearing a batch of petitions, including the one filed by West Bengal Chief Minister Banerjee, related to the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

The court also directed that the deadline for the scrutiny of documents and objections be extended at least by a week from February 14, the scheduled date for publication of the final list.

Banerjee alleged "mass exclusion" of voters in the SIR of electoral rolls in the state.

The bench directed the state to make available to the Election Commission of India Group B officers for SIR duties, who can replace micro-observers deployed by the poll panel.

The court also clarified that final orders on claims and objections can be passed only by the Electoral Registration Officers (ERO), and that the micro-observers can only assist them.

The bench told the West Bengal government to ensure that all the 8,550 Group B officers, whose list was handed over, would report for duty to the District Collector/ERO Tuesday by 5 pm.

"The EC shall have the discretion to replace the existing ERO/AEROS and utilise the services of the officers who have now been placed at their service, subject to their suitability," the bench ordered.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Banerjee objected to an alleged extra-legal role given to the micro-observers, appointed from other states and central government establishments.

▸ SIR, Page 4

It's robbery: SC on digital frauds

Terming the siphoning of over Rs 54,000 crore by digital frauds as "absolute robbery or dacoity", the Supreme Court on Monday told the Centre to draft a standard operating procedure in consultation with stakeholders like the RBI, banks and the Department of Telecommunications to deal with such cases.

Details on Page 8

37-yr-old Bengaluru-origin techie shot dead in Canada

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 37-year-old Bengaluru-origin techie died after being shot by unidentified men in the parking lot of a busy shopping centre in Toronto, Canada, police said.

Assailants fired multiple rounds at the victim, R N Chandan Kumar, a resident of Thyamagondlu near Nelamangala.

Chandan Kumar

On Saturday, at approximately 3.31 pm, the police responded to a call for a shooting in the parking lot of Woodbine Shopping Centre located at Rexdale Boulevard and Highway 27, the statement said.

It said police officers found a man with gunshot wounds when they arrived at the scene. The victim was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries, but succumbed to the injuries.

Images taken from the scene show a white SUV with bullet holes in the windshield and a shattered window on the driver's side, according to CTV News.

Though the exact reason for the attack is yet to be ascertained, Kumar's family, however, said jealousy could have been the motive since he was very active in promoting pro-Kannada events.

▸ Shot dead, Page 4
More reports on Page 3

Karnataka to introduce Suicide Prevention Policy

BENGALURU DHNS: Karnataka is all set to introduce the Suicide Prevention Policy (2025), which will contain interventions to help vulnerable students on campuses across the state.

The policy, which is in its final stages, will cover students studying or living in institutions run by departments of education, social welfare, minority welfare, ST welfare and backward classes welfare.

Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa spoke about the policy in the Legislative Assembly.

Details on Page 5

Amid fare row, Dy CM asks metro to reconsider hike

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya taking a dig at the state government with an empty trunk on Monday. DH PHOTO

With the proposed 5% Namma Metro fare hike triggering a fresh Centre-state face-off, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday said the Karnataka government would ask Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) to review its finances and reconsider the fare revision.

"The decision to increase the fare was neither taken by the state government nor by the Central government. It was implemented based on the recommendations of the Fare Fixation Committee, which is an independent body," the Bengaluru Development Minister said at a press conference.

The committee, he said, had suggested an annual fare hike of up to 5%. "We will ask BMRCL to recalculate its operation and maintenance (O&M) costs including staff salaries, electricity bills and fuel, based on the formula adopted by the Delhi Metro," he said, reiterating that he had no direct or indirect role in the metro fare hike.

Shivakumar also asserted that it was the state government that directed the metro to withhold the hike, maintaining that the Centre has no authority to interfere in the matter.

He also questioned the postponement of the BMRCL board meeting scheduled for Monday, where the temporary deferral of the fare hike was expected to be discussed.

▸ Metro, Page 4

No mechanical FIRs over social media posts: DGP

BENGALURU, DHNS

The chief of the Karnataka police has issued a new set of guidelines "to avoid mechanical registration of the FIRs and arrests relating to social media posts."

These guidelines direct the police on how to act in several instances, specifically relating to the protection of political speech, and also on maintaining a high threshold for media posts and/or speech-related offences.

The circular was issued by Director General and Inspector General of Police MA Saleem on February 7.

"It has been observed that the police are registering the case relating to social media posts mechanically without undertaking preliminary inquiries as stipulated by the Supreme Court in Imran Pratapgadhi vs State of Gujarat. This office has already issued a circular bearing No CRM-3/41/2024, dated 04.07.2025, in this regard," Saleem said.

"Further, the SC has upheld guidelines framed by the Telangana High Court relating to the registration of FIRs in cases arising out of social media posts in the referred judgement. Hence, the same guidelines are adopted herewith," he added.

▸ Guidelines for FIRs, Page 5

Hate Speech Bill: Guv cites 18 SC orders

The state government is relying on two SC orders to justify legislating on hate speech whereas Governor Gehlot has listed out at least 18 judgments to argue against it.

Details on Page 5

SC upholds order barring animal sacrifice

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld a Madras High Court order prohibiting animal sacrifice and granting Muslim devotees limited rights to prayers over a dargah on the Thiruparankundram hills in Madurai. An SC declined to interfere with the October 2025 order of the High Court.

P 8

FIR over circulation of Naravane's book

The Delhi Police has registered an FIR over the circulation of an unpublished book of former Chief of Army Staff Gen M M Naravane on social media, a statement said. The police has taken cognisance of information claiming that a copy is being circulated without clearance.

P 9

BOOST FOR COFFEE!

- Over the last 4 yrs, exports consistently crossed the $1 bn mark
- In FY25, exports stood at **$1.8 billion**
- In FY24, exports stood at **$1.29 billion**

India's coffee exports set to cross $2 bn mark in FY26

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's coffee exports are set to cross the $2 billion (little over Rs 18,000 crore) mark in value terms in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.

Despite global geopolitical challenges, green bean exports at the beginning of February touched $1.72 billion.

With another month and a half of the fiscal year left, it is expected that the coffee exports will overtake last year's level, a top Coffee Board of India official said.

In the fiscal year ended March 2025, India's coffee exports touched the $1.8 billion mark in value terms, a growth of 40% over the previous year's level of $1.29 billion, said the official.

"Over the past four years, India's coffee exports have consistently exceeded the $1 billion mark," Kurma Rao M, CEO & Secretary, Coffee Board of India, said on Monday.

The coffee industry in India is primarily concentrated in the major coffee-growing states of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, which collectively account for 96% of the country's total coffee production.

▸ Coffee, Page 4

Sip, sip, hooray!

In 2024-25, India produced **3.63 lakh metric tonnes** of coffee

Karnataka accounts for **72%** of India's coffee output

Top 5 export destinations
Italy, Germany, Belgium, Russia, and UAE

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EECO

FIR against YouTube channel for flying drone in KIA no-fly zone

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru International Airport police have registered a case against a YouTube channel for allegedly flying a drone in a restricted no-fly zone near Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), in violation of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) guidelines.

A senior police officer told *DH* that an FIR has been registered against the 'Bangalore Wanderlust' YouTube channel based on a complaint by CISF officials.

The drone footage was uploaded on January 4, 2026. It was being flown in a red zone area where aerial operations are strictly prohibited as per DGCA regulations and posed a potential threat to aviation safety, the officer said.

The vigilance team of DGCA had observed the aerial footage and alerted CISF personnel to register a case against the YouTube channel to initiate legal action. "We are verifying the details of the channel operator and also the involvement of a third party, or whether any other government agency had asked him to shoot the video by giving money. Action will be initiated against those responsible if found guilty," the officer added.

The YouTube channel has 2.61K followers and contains more than 30 such videos related to various places in the city.

Woman found murdered in suspected chain-snatching case

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 42-year-old woman was found dead under suspicious circumstances at Hoskuru village in Madanayakanahalli on Monday morning, triggering speculation of a possible chain-snatching incident.

The deceased has been identified as Jyothi, wife of Manjunath. She was working in a private company.

A senior police officer said that the incident occurred between 5.30 am and 6 am. Manjunath noticed Jyothi lying on the ground collapsed and alerted the police. It is said that the woman was wearing a gold chain and earrings. Two bike-borne men sprayed something on her face while she was sweeping in front of the house resulting in her death. However, Nagesh DL DCP (North-West) said that they are ascertaining any other reason behind the death.

Jyothi is survived by her husband and two children. Her body was shifted to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem examination. Madanayakanahalli police have registered a case.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

Kannada and Culture Department: Kayaka Sharanara Jayanti, Inauguration and award presentation, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Basavamurthy Madara Channaiyya Swami, Basavaharallayya Swami to take part, Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road, 6 pm

'Shurpanakhi' play performance: Written by Apoorva Kasaravalli, directed by Vandana Supriya Kasaravalli, Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar, 7.30 pm

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◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mainly Clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	31.0°C
Minimum	17.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	63%
Sunset (Feb 10)	6:23 pm
Sunrise (Feb 11)	6:44 am
Moonrise	-
Moonset	11:35 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

KOGILU WOES: Residents say authorities not issuing them; officials refute

Evictees lack certificates for housing scheme

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

None of the residents at the Kogilu eviction site have a domicile (residence) certificate and majority of them do not have an income certificate. Both these documents are a must to get housing from Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited.

Sources said houses cannot be allotted without these certificates and this could have delayed the process.

"Domicile certificate is a must to allot houses. It shows they have stayed here for more than six years. However, none of the residents has the certificate," a source privy to the matter said.

Till recently, many of the displaced citizens did not know that they had to submit such documents.

"We submitted documents like Aadhaar card and voter ID. They just took the documents and left. Recently, they called a few of us again and said they need income certificate, caste certificate and domicile certificate," said Sheik Mohammed Rafiq of Fakir Colony.

While the officials have asked the residents to get these documents to process alternate housing facilities for the families, the residents alleged that the taluk office is refusing to issue them these documents.

"When any of us go to apply the officials only say that they cannot process it. They tell that they have been asked not to issue any certificates till the confusion at Kogilu is cleared. We don't know how to proceed," said Khader B, yet another resident of Kogilu.

However, senior officials from the district administration refuted such claims and said that they had not received any applications so far.

"There is sakala to track any application. We are bound to provide services within the said time. Even if we reject the application, we will have to mention the grounds on which it was rejected," a senior official said.

"In fact we have not received any applications seeking domicile certificate," he added.

Evicted residents continue to live in makeshift tents in Kogilu, in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Devoid of shelter, still under shock; yet to return to work

BENGALURU, DHNS

Nearly two months after their homes were demolished, the displaced families in Kogilu are still reeling under the shock and a majority of them are yet to return to work.

Refusing to part away from the place where their houses stood, all of them have put up makeshift tents at the same place. Even to this day, the residents said they are scared that the authorities would come back to remove the makeshift tents as well.

"None of us go to work. We do not want to go through the same ordeal again. We have been living here for years but never have we been through such a situation," said Khader B, one of the residents of Fakir Colony.

Though the government has set up four rehabilitation centres, the residents have refused to stay there. "All of these are families and the rehabilitation centre does not have any facility for families to live," said one of the NGO workers, who is assisting the families.

Displaced residents cooking food in the open at Kogilu.

With no work and having lost household items, they depend on NGOs and donors for food. With time, the donations they are receiving has also reduced significantly.

"They tried to provide us with all the meals for almost a month. But after that the organisations are also finding it difficult to fund our meals. Even now we get breakfast but all three meals are not guaranteed," said Sheik Mohammed Rafiq, another resident of Fakir Colony.

The bigger crisis, however, is that many children in the colony have stopped attending schools since they lost their books and uniforms during the demolition drive.

"A few of them just go and attend the classes but cannot write or study anything since they lost their books and in the current situation we cannot afford to buy them new ones," another resident said.

Notice issued to owners of 10,000 properties for paying lower tax

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) IT team, along with NIC has found that owners of nearly 10,000 properties paid a lower property tax resulting in a loss of revenue of close to Rs 370 crore.

The GPS team set up by GBA conducted a house-to-house survey to compile the details, which along with drone images of each property, was used to identify those that had paid lower cess.

"The GPS details of the property along with the usage on the ground are recorded. The data is used to compare with drone data and digitised built-up area. If built-up area is more and citizen has declared less or usage is commercial (part or full) but has not been declared then a Show Cause notice to pay evaded taxes along with interest and penalty is sent," a statement by GBA said.

Based on the number of years of evasion of tax, close to 49,000 notices–one notice for each year - as each property has paid less tax for about five years on average have been issued.

Citizens who get notice can reply or appeal online at https://BBMPenyaya.karnataka. gov.in within 15 days of notice.

They can also pay immediately online at https://BBMP-tax.karnataka.gov. in

EYESORE

Scrapped vehicles parked by the roadside near Jayanagar police station in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

DCM promises 'A' khata to 7,000 'B' khata properties in 15 days

Says GBA has digitised 25 lakh property records

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday said the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has received a total of 7,000 applications with a request to convert their 'B' khata properties into 'A' khata. The Bangalore Development Minister has promised to hand over the 'A' khata to all eligible land owners in the next 15 days.

In October last year, the GBA had launched the scheme in a bid to streamline the management of land records in Bengaluru. Under the scheme, the 'B' khata property owners could apply for the 'A' khata by paying 5% of the guidance value. It, however, applies only to vacant plots and plots with single ownership (single-unit building).

On Monday, the deputy chief minister handed over 'A' khata certificate to half a dozen property owners who had applied for the scheme. "Our officials will inspect the 7,000 properties applied for the scheme before issuing the 'A' khata," he said, adding the inspection will be completed in the next 15 days.

Briefing the status of issuing e-khata to citizens, the Bangalore Development Minister said the GBA has digitized 25 lakh property records. "So far, 9.5 lakh properties have received e-khata certificate," he said, adding the GBA has also received 1.20 lakh applications seeking new e-khata for properties who were not under the tax net of the GBA. "We have approved 60,000 applications. About 45,000 requests have been rejected. I have directed the officials to audit the reasons for such large-scale rejections," he said.

He also said the GBA has started issuing premium floor area ratio (FAR) based on the policy enacted during the BJP's tenure. "We expect revenue of about Rs 1,000 crore," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar hands over A khata to a property owner in Bengaluru on Monday. PHOTO: DYCM OFFICE

City to see works worth Rs 1.4 lakh crore in 3 yrs: DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday said Bengaluru will see infrastructure projects to the tune of Rs 1.40 lakh crore over the next three to four years.

He said the government has constituted Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) with the mandate to undertake large projects.

Briefing the reporters, he said the funds would be spent on projects such as North-South and East-West tunnel roads, elevated corridors, flyovers, even as mobility experts have questioned the utility of road-centric projects.

He also added that Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will build a short tunnel at Hebbal while acknowledging that the newly-built Hebbal flyover loop has significantly eased traffic.

On the allotment of sites in the newly-formed Dr Shivaram Karanth Layout, he said about 80% of the land losers have agreed to accept the compensatory sites.

"There are some differences of opinion among the balance 20%. We are planning to hold a programme where all land losers will be compensated at one go," he said.

The layout, he said, comprises about 34,000 sites. "The land losers will get about 17,000 sites. The balance will be provided to the general public," he said.

Night burglar held; cops recover valuables worth Rs 1.84 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Baiyappanahalli police have arrested a serial night burglar and recovered valuables worth Rs 1.84 crore.

The arrested is Raja, 43, a resident of Chikkabanavara and an autorickshaw driver.

According to police, a resident of Sadananada Nagar lodged a complaint on Oct 20, 2025, that two days ago, when he was visiting his native place in Kundapura, unknown people broke into his house and took away 783 gram of gold ornaments and Rs 8 lakh in cash kept inside the cupboard in the room.

"Police conducted inquiries from multiple angles and collected details through informants. Based on the information, on January 4, the suspect was secured at Abbigere. During interrogation, he confessed to his involvement in the case," the police said in a statement.

The accused revealed that he had sold the stolen valuables to jewellery shops in Kammagondanahalli, Abbigere and HMT Layout and four individuals in Abbigere, Jalahalli and Goa.

Police have so far managed to recover 1.232 kg of gold ornaments, a two-wheeler and a mobile phone from three jewellery shops and four individuals.

"With the arrest of this man, four house-break theft cases have been solved, including three cases in Baiyappanahalli station and one in Ramamurthy Nagar station. Further investigation is on," the police said.

Cops seize drugs worth Rs 2 cr; 24 suspects arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: The city police, including the Central Crime Branch (CCB), have arrested 24 people involved in selling drugs and recovered narcotic substances worth Rs 2.08 crore.

The seizures include 1.23 kg of hydro ganja, 76 kg of ganja, 11.600 kg of charas and 121 grams of MDMA.

"Based on credible information received from informants on different dates, it was learnt that banned narcotic substances, such as Hydro Ganja, Ganja, Charas, and MDMA, were being sold within the jurisdiction of Kumaraswamy Layout, Hebbal, JC Nagar, Basavanagudi, Govindarajanagar, and Chamarajpet Police Stations. Acting on this information, cases were registered under the NDPS Act, and raids were conducted at the locations identified by the informants," the police said in a statement.

During the search operations, 24 suspects from different states were arrested.

"During interrogation, the accused confessed that, with the intention of making easy money, they had procured Hydro Ganja, Ganja, Charas, and MDMA from unidentified persons and were selling them to the public, including college students and IT/BT employees. The above-mentioned narcotic substances in their possession were seized," the police said.

NAVIKA to host 9th world summit in Atlanta; Focus on youth and technology

BENGALURU, DHNS

The North America Vishwa Kannada Association (NAVIKA) on Monday announced that its 9th World Summit will be held in Atlanta, USA, from September 3 to 5, 2027.

The announcement was made during a press conference where the association outlined its roadmap for promoting Kannada heritage on a global stage.

Newly elected NAVIKA president Dr Annapurna Bhat emphasised the organisation's shift toward a more inclusive and progressive framework.

"Our mission is to unite Kannadigas globally while fostering excellence in education and technology," she said.

The upcoming summit at the Gas South Convention Centre is expected to feature sessions on Artificial Intelligence, medical entrepreneurship, and youth leadership, alongside traditional cultural showcases.

Senior actor Sundar Raj lauded the association's efforts in bridging the gap between Karnataka and the diaspora.

Reflecting on the word 'NAVIKA' (Sailor in Kannada), he noted, "It is a title that reflects the responsibility of steering our culture across oceans. This platform is not just about nostalgia; it is about providing a global stage for our artists and literature."

Former minister S R Patil and actress Prema were also present to lend their support.

Prema highlighted the importance of engaging the next generation, stating that such summits help younger Kannadigas stay rooted in their linguistic heritage while navigating a globalised world.

NAVIKA founding members K V Kumar, Dr Subbarao, former minister S R Patil, president-elect Anupama Bhat, actors Prema and Sundar Raj at the announcement event of its 9th World Summit, in Bengaluru on Monday.

The association, founded in 2010, has previously held summits in cities like Florida and countries including Kenya and Germany. Founder members, including K V Kumar and Dr Subbarao, reiterated that the organisation remains committed to being a non-political, inclusive entity.

The 2027 summit aims to be a 'Global Kannadiga' networking hub, blending business, technology, and Karnataka's rich arts.

2 held for robbing home-alone woman

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Govindapura police have arrested two suspects in connection with a robbery case. Stolen property worth Rs 7.44 lakh has been recovered from the duo. The arrested are Mohammed Shabaz Khan, 24, from DJ Halli and Suraj A, 40, from T Dasarahalli.

According to the complainant, when he was away at work on Jan 27, three suspects entered his house, assaulted his wife, who was home alone, and robbed 48.06 grams of gold ornaments and Rs 4 lakh cash. The police have recovered 15.2 grams of gold ornaments, Rs 2.73 lakh in cash, two mobile phones, and a scooter used for the offence. One more suspect is at large.

Lokayukta traps Bescom EE while taking Rs 3 lakh bribe

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Lokayukta police on Monday trapped a Bescom official while allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 3 lakh.

The arrested is Rajesh K V, Executive Engineer(Elec), E-11 Division, BESCOM, Indiranagara, Bengaluru.

According to the police, the complainant, an electrical contractor, reached out to the Lokayukta police claiming that Rajesh had sought Rs 7 lakh bribe to "reactivate electric meters and to provide 24 KW new connection to complainant's client."

The Lokayukta police officials laid a trap and caught Rajesh red-handed when he accepted Rs 3 lakh as part of the bribe from the complainant.

A case under Prevention of Corruption Act has been registered and further probe is underway, officials said.

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State govt has no role in Metro fare hike, says Siddaramaiah

'Decision taken by BMRCL chairman appointed by Centre'

HARIHAR (DAVANGERE DISTRICT), DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday that the state government has no role in Namma Metro fare hike and that the decision was taken by the BMRCL chairman appointed by the Union government.

The state government has no legal authority to fix or revise the Metro fare. There is no substance in the allegation made by Bangalore South BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, the CM told reporters on the sidelines of an event at Rajanahalli Valmiki Gurupeeth near here.

On the India-US trade deal, Siddaramaiah said, "The terms of the trade deal between India and the US are unfair to the farmers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has succumbed to pressure tactics of the Trump administration," he charged.

"Two ministers from the Valmiki community had to resign for some reasons. The community has put forth a demand to give ministerial berths to its members. Their demand will be considered during the Cabinet expansion," he assured.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah takes part in Valmiki fair at Rajanahalli in Davangere district on Monday. Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, Valmiki Gurupeetha seer Prasannananda Swami and Panchamasali seer Vachanananda Swami are seen. DH PHOTO/SATISH BADIGER

Siddaramaiah said that there is a demand to establish a tribal university in the state and that the government will examine it and take an appropriate decision.

The chief minister quashed rumours of Mines and Geology Minister S S Mallikarjuna submitted resignation. "There is no truth in it. He has not met me."

He said that the date for the Budget presentation would be fixed soon. The CM refused to take queries on the power-sharing tussle.

Pressure Centre for inclusion of quota hike in 9th Schedule, CM tells MPs from state

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urged the MPs from Karnataka to pressure the Centre to include the enhanced reservation in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution to enable the SCs and STs benefit from it.

Speaking at the Maharshi Valmiki fair at Rajanahalli Gurupeeth near Harihar, Siddaramaiah said, "The state government passed a resolution urging the Centre to approve the hike in reservation for SC/STs. Since, the Supreme Court is not in favour of crossing 50% ceiling on reservations, the Centre should include include the state government's decision on hiking reservation for SCs and STs in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution."

The state government has hiked reservation for SCs to 15% while that of STs to 7%, taking the overall quota to 56%.

Chandan promoted Kannada in Canada, recalls family

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The shooting and the subsequent death of 37-year-old Indian-Canadian, identified as Chandan Kumar Raja Nandakumar, by unidentified men in the parking lot of a busy shopping centre in Toronto, Canada, has triggered shock waves among people of Karnataka.

Described as a "quiet" by his family and a "warm person" by his friend, Chandan studied at Geetha English School in Dobbspet and completed his engineering from Sapthagiri College of Engineering in Hesaraghatta.

Recalling Chandan's life, his mother Shailaja told *DH*, that he had always been a quiet and sensitive person who avoided sharing his problems so as not to cause pain to his parents. Nine months ago, when Shailaja's father passed away, he had returned home to be with the family. "He was passionate about Kannada and culture and was organising events along with well-known celebrities back in Canada," Shailaja said.

She further said that during his childhood in the village, he did not know English, but after going abroad, he learned the language fluently, which brought immense happiness to the family. Kumar was her only child and urged the government to take immediate steps to bring his body back home at the earliest.

Raghavendra A S, cousin of Kumar, told *DH* that the latter was actively involved in promoting Kannada films in Canada. "He was in touch with several celebrities and had recently participated in the promotion of screenings of around 45 Kannada movies. He was also an active member of a couple of pro-Kannada organisations," he said.

Raghavendra said that soon after the incident came to light, the family approached the company's HR department, who in turn, assured all possible help to the family.

Kumar was unmarried. He had visited Bengaluru around nine months ago and had seen a couple of marriage proposals. "However, he kept the proposals pending, saying he would look into them later," the family said.

'Will bring back mortal remains at the earliest'

The Karnataka government has initiated efforts to bring back the mortal remains of Chandan Kumar at the earliest, Home Minister G Parameshwara said. The home minister said the news of Kumar's death had caused "immense grief and shock."

"I offer my heartfelt condolences to the departed soul. I pray that God grants eternal peace to the soul of the deceased and gives strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. Efforts are being made through the State Police Department to seek the cooperation of the Union Ministry of External Affairs to ensure that the mortal remains are brought back to India at the earliest. "Officials have also been directed to extend all necessary assistance to the grieving family residing in Karnataka," he added.

Parameshwara further said that through the Ministry of External Affairs, the Canadian government would be urged to conduct a thorough investigation into the murder and ensure justice. "Kannadigas living in Canada need not panic. The Government of Karnataka remains fully committed to the safety and security of all Kannadigas," he said.

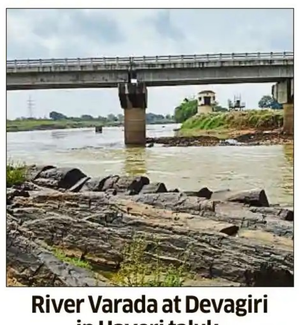
Delegation urges Centre to drop projects harmful to U-K

'Impresses upon state not to propose new projects'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

A delegation of elected representatives from Uttara Kannada (U-K) district met Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil and Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav here on Monday and urged them to drop the Bedti-Varada river-linking and the Sharavathi pumped storage projects proposed in the district.

The team included Uttara Kannada Lok Sabha member Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, Fisheries Minister Mankal Vaidya, MLAs Bhimanna Naik and Shivaram Hebbar, MLC Shantharam Siddi, environmentalist Ananth Hegde Ashisara and others.



River Varada at Devagiri in Haveri taluk.

The delegation also met Union Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy, Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi and Minister of State for Railways V Somanna.

In a memorandum submitted to the ministers, the delegation urged them that the Centre should not proceed with the projects, stating that these would be disastrous for the district.

They highlighted that several projects had already been implemented in the district and new ones would further damage its ecology.

The team demanded that the Centre study the district's bearing capacity before approving new projects.

"The union ministers assured us that no major projects harming the ecology of Uttara Kannada district will be implemented. We asked them to impress upon the state government not to propose locations in the district for new projects," Kageri told reporters.

He said, "We were able to convince the union ministers. We hope the projects will not be forced on the people of the district".

Cops detain Surya, 5 others at R V Road metro station

Planned to ride on train to expose 'khali trunk sarkara': MP

BENGALURU, DHNS

High drama prevailed in front of R V Road metro station on Monday when BJP MP Tejasvi Surya along with five others was detained by Jayanagar police when they were protesting against the now suspended Metro fare hike. The police took them into custody and later released them on station bail.

Surya, along with Jayanagar MLA C K Ramamurthy and others, came to the station to board the Metro. Holding an empty trunk, Surya said that the state government's coffers were empty and that the CM and the DCM had withdrawn cash support to BMRCL.

"The state government has no money left to provide shadow cash support to Metro. That is the reason why it pushed for an increase in Metro fares," Surya said.

He said that the police detained him to prevent the truth from coming out.

"I planned to travel in the Metro carrying an empty trunk to explain about the government's empty coffers to the public. But to ensure that the truth does not come out, we were detained," Surya said.

Later, Surya wrote on his X account saying that the government was insecure.

"Imagine the insecurity of this Congress government, a #KhaliTrunkSarkara that feels threatened by one individual simply trying to board a Metro with an empty trunk. Their priorities are clearly skewed. Instead of these tactics of intimidation, the government must reinstate the shadow cash support to metro, reconstitute fare fixation committee and take concrete steps to make public transport more affordable to the common person," he wrote.

Earlier, when Surya opposed the government's plan to build a tunnel road, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar had called Surya an "empty vessel" and had said that he was "blocking infrastructure works in Bengaluru" and he had done "nothing" for the city.

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE

" Set thy heart upon thy work, but never on its reward "
- Bhagavad Gita 2:47

Shri V. VENKATA REDDY

18.01.1937 - 06.02.2026

Former Managing Director
Sri Chamundeswari Sugars Limited

We are deeply saddened by the passing away of Shri V. Venkata Reddy, who was associated with Sri Chamundeswari Sugars Ltd for a long time.

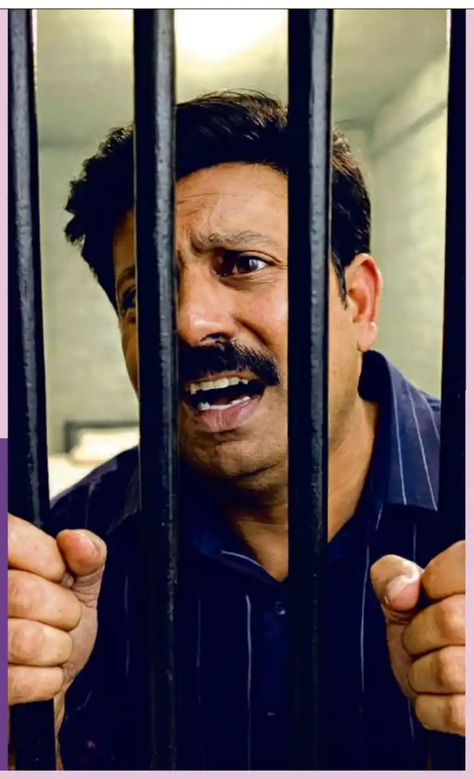
He will be remembered for his dedication and selfless yeoman service. His contributions and values will continue to inspire us.

At this time, we express our heartfelt grief and our sincere condolences to the family. We pray to the Almighty to bestow eternal peace on the departed soul.

Deeply Mourned by :-
The Management and Staff of

Sri Chamundeswari Sugars Limited
LIFE IN HARMONY

A money mule is a person who transfers or moves illegally acquired money on behalf of someone else.



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CM slams Modi's 'silence' in Lok Sabha as 'act of cowardice'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday lambasted PM Narendra Modi, stating that the latter's "silence" in Lok Sabha during the debate on the motion of thanks to President's address was an "act of cowardice."

"What makes this episode even more disturbing is that the government first silenced the Opposition and then chose to remain silent itself. Rahul Gandhi, leader of the Opposition, was not allowed to complete his speech when he raised serious national security concerns and sought to place on record a book by former Army Chief General M M Naravane," Siddaramaiah postet on X.

Siddaramaiah said: "This is precisely the kind of evasive 'leadership' Modi did not want Parliament to examine".

DKS heads to Delhi, to skip pre-budget meeting with CM

Dept work on track, have briefed officers, says DCM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid continuing speculation over power-sharing in the Congress, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar announced on Monday that he would be travelling to Delhi, skipping the pre-budget meeting of the water resources department scheduled to be chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is also the finance minister.

Speaking to reporters here, Shivakumar played down his absence from the meeting, saying the department's work was already on track.

"The chief minister is the chairman of the water resources department. Our officers are present and I have already briefed them. There is nothing much to do in the department as everything is planned," he said.

On the purpose of his Delhi visit, Shivakumar said he would be meeting central ministers, the party's legal team and senior Congress leaders.

"I am going to meet central ministers, our legal team, Congress leaders and the high command, which has called me," he said.

When asked whether Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had summoned him, Shivakumar remarked cryptically, "I can't reveal all that."

Brushing aside persistent queries from the media, he said, "Why are you so curious? I am the Congress president, besides being deputy CM. I will be completing six years as KPCC president on March 6. It is my duty to meet our leader of Opposition, leaders and MPs. I will keep meeting them, sharing my troubles and pain, and perhaps all your desire (of me becoming the CM) too".

Elaborating on his visit, Shivakumar said he would be visiting Indira Bhavan in Delhi and meeting some leaders at their residences.

"Whomever I meet, they will tell you," he quipped.

On being reminded that one of his supporters had expressed a desire to see him as chief minister during this term, Shivakumar shot back, "Don't you people desire it?"

On skipping the pre-budget meeting, he said, "I am going to Delhi tomorrow. I will take the chief minister's permission. Since he is the chairman, he knows things better than me".

When pressed on whether power transfer would be discussed in Delhi, Shivakumar replied briefly, "I am a political man," and walked away.

Muzrai dept to finally get its own four-storey bldg at Rs 27 crore

'Dharmika Soudha' to be built in iconic Hoysala style of architecture

BENGALURU, DHNS

Decades after its inception, the state Muzrai Department is set to move from rented premises to its own permanent headquarters. On Monday, Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy performed the bhoomi puja (groundbreaking ceremony) for 'Dharmika Soudha', a grand four-storey office complex to be built at an estimated cost of Rs 27 crore.

The building will come up on a 20-cent plot adjacent to the Ramanjaneya Swamy Temple, behind Vikas Soudha and opposite MS Building. Reflecting the state's rich heritage, the structure will be built in the iconic Hoysala architectural style.

"The department oversees over 34,000 temples but has been operating out of a cramped, rented building in Chamarajpet for years, paying lakhs in rent. It was high time we had a dedicated space," Minister Reddy said during the ceremony. He noted that while the project cost is Rs 27 crore, the department is utilising its own accumulated funds and anticipated central grants rather than depending solely on the state exchequer.

The proposed building will span four floors and a ground level, designed to house all administrative wings of the department under one roof. While the ground floor has a dedicated parking, a digital library, and a record room for the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) department. A formal court hall, the Commissioner's office, and the Survey department will be on the first floor. The second and third floors will house the Agama section, IT and Engineering wings, meeting halls, and open office spaces for superintendents and the fourth floor will have a state-of-the-art auditorium for departmental functions.

The event was attended by Bengaluru Central MP P C Mohan, Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad, Principal Secretary Rajendra Kumar Kataria, and Muzrai Commissioner Sharath.

80-90 MLAs want DKS as CM: Iqbal Hussain

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ramanagara Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain on Monday claimed that 80-90 lawmakers in the party want Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar to become the chief minister.

"There are 80-90 MLAs who've asked the party to give Shivakumar an opportunity in order to ensure Congress retains power in the next election," Hussain, a Shivakumar loyalist, said. "Some are quiet. But I'm open about it. I want to see Shivakumar become the CM. I've been sincere about this," Hussain said.

Hussain's statement comes a few days after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son-MLC Yathindra claimed that the Congress high command had "given the signal" and that his father would continue at the helm.

Last year, Hussain was slapped with a show-cause notice after publicly backing Shivakumar's chief ministerial ambition. He again reiterated his disappointment that Yathindra was getting away with his statements.

"What happened to me must happen to others. Everyone must have the same law," Hussain said.

"We must maintain discipline. To speak in favour of one's father repeatedly and disrespecting the high command...we don't like it. Provoking others with such statements is wrong," Hussain said.

COOLANT FRUIT

A worker unloads watermelons from a truck at the KR Market in Bengaluru on Monday. The demand for watermelons goes up during summer. AFP PHOTO

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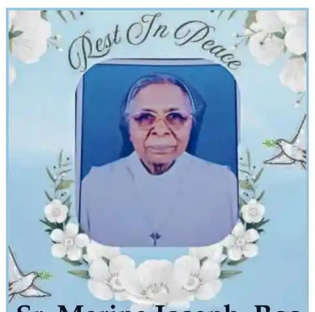

Sr. Marina Joseph. Rgs
11.04.1932 - 09.02.2026
Funeral Mass at 10:30am on 10.02.2026, at St. Martha's Hospital chapel and Funeral at Good Shepherd Convent, Museum Road, Cemetery Bangalore.
Mourned by Sisters of The Good Shepherd Province of SWI.

Metro fare hike: Ramalinga Reddy hits out at BJP

Dismissing allegations that the state government was responsible for the price rise, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy clarified the legal framework governing the metro. "The BJP leaders are 'drama masters' and habitual liars. The decision to hike fares is made by a three-member committee headed by the Union Urban Development Secretary. The committee has two central representatives and only one from the state," he pointed out.

Reddy questioned why Bengaluru's BJP MPs remained silent in Parliament while the city contributes over Rs 3 lakh crore in revenue to the Centre. "If something good happens, they credit PM Modi. If prices rise, they blame the state. They claim the state is in debt, but look at the Central government's borrowing over Rs 2 lakh crore annually. Whose treasury is really empty?" he asked.

RAMALINGA REDDY
Transport Minister

"If something good happens, they credit PM Modi. If prices rise, they blame the state. They claim the state is in debt, but look at the Central government's borrowing over Rs 2 lakh crore annually. Whose treasury is really empty?

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast Feb 10: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	31.2	12.4	00
Bidar	29.2	12	00
Vijayapura	31.2	13	00
Dharwad	31.6	13.5	00
Haveri	32	15.6	00
Kalaburagi	34	16.6	00
Raichur	31.6	15	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	34.3	18.4	00
Karwar	37.2	20.2	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	34.8	22.9	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	30.2	16.8	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	31	14.7	00
Davangere	32	13.5	00
Hassan	31.1	12.6	00
Mysuru	31.2	14	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	29.8	11.8	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	24.4	9.4	00
Kolkata	27.5	14	00
Mumbai	34.5	19	00
Chennai	31.4	20.2	00
Pune	32	13.8	00
Hyderabad	31.4	15.4	00
Th'puram	34.6	22.5	00

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37-yr-old Bl'uru-based techie shot dead in Canada

Shot dead, from Page 1

His father, Nandakumar R, a retired teacher, said he received an international call late Sunday night but was reluctant to answer it. Later, he came to know that Kumar was shot dead and the callers were speaking in English.

The victim's cousin, Raghavendra A S, said the family has sought government assistance to bring Kumar's body back to India. He added that the tahsildar visited the family on Monday to collect details and initiate formalities.

Kumar's mother Shailaja Nandakumar told *DH* that Kumar had been living and working in Canada for the last nine years. She said her husband had spoken to their son earlier in the day and asked him whether he had spoken to a girl's family, as they had recently gone to see a prospective bride.

"An international call came late at night, but my husband was scared and did not answer it. He tried calling our son back, but there was no response. When another international call came, I answered it and we were informed that our son had been shot," she said.

The police statement said the circumstances surrounding the shooting are not known, but officers believe it was a "targeted" incident. The police are still working to gather details on how many suspects there are and how many gunshots were fired.

India's coffee exports set to cross a $2 bn mark in FY26

Coffee, from Page 1

Karnataka accounts for 72% of India's production. The state is estimated to produce 2,80,275 metric tonnes (post-blossom estimate for 2025–26).

During the year 2024-25, India produced 3.63 lakh metric tonnes of coffee, of which 70% was exported. The domestic consumption stood at 95,000 metric tonnes in 2023, Rao said.

The top 5 export destinations for Indian coffee are Italy (18.09%), Germany (11.01%), Belgium (7.47%), the Russian Federation (5.28%), and the United Arab Emirates (5.09%).

The recently concluded India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) marks a key milestone in bilateral trade relations. The pact offers tariff advantages for Indian value-added coffees, particularly instant coffee.

The United Kingdom, which already accounts for 1.7% of India's coffee exports, will now provide duty-free access for roast & ground and instant coffee, enabling Indian exporters to compete more effectively with suppliers from Germany, Spain, and the Netherlands.

The agreement establishes a robust foundation for increasing exports of value-added coffee products to the UK, according to a note issued by the Press Information Bureau.

India is also one of the major hubs for instant coffee production and exports, with value-added products accounting for nearly 38% of total coffee exports.

Amid fare row, Dy CM asks Metro to review its finances

Metro, from Page 1

"I was waiting to see what order they would issue after the meeting. I was watching what politics they would play. That is why I kept quiet. Those calling it a temporary victory should have convened the board meeting and issued directions," he said.

Without naming the BJP, Shivakumar pointed out that the Karnataka government had, in 2020, written to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs seeking constitution of the Fare Fixation Committee. "The committee submitted its report in February 2025 and its term has now expired. If fares are to be revised, the Centre must constitute a new committee," he said, adding some BJP leaders are "playing politics".

On the state government's withdrawal of shadow cash support, the Deputy Chief Minister said Karnataka has paid Rs 5,066 crore to BMRCL so far, including loan repayments.

He further noted that Metro fares in Bengaluru are higher than those in New Delhi because the Centre bears the cost of security at Metro stations in Delhi, whereas in Bengaluru the expenditure is borne by BMRCL.

Won't let anyone obstruct SIR: SC

SIR, from Page 1

He sought a direction that the ERO would be the final authority for passing the order.

EC's counsel D S Naidu, however, submitted that this was a non-issue, as the orders are passed by the ERO only.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union government, urged the court to take cognisance of the "shocking details" in the EC's affidavit and pass appropriate orders.

He said that persons holding high offices were instigating violence against the EC officials. The West Bengal government, however, denied the charges.

The EC had earlier claimed that the SIR in West Bengal has been marred by violence, intimidation and sustained political interference and obstruction against election officials. In its affidavit, the poll panel also cited an incident, related to the gherao of the office of the Chief Electoral Officer in Kolkata on November 24, 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to Rule 16 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016]
BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU BENCH
COMPANY SCHEME PETITION NO. 57 OF 2025 IN COMPANY SCHEME APPLICATION NO. 36 OF 2025
ISOTRACK INNOVATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
... Applicant Company 1 / Transferor Company
FUNDERMAX INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
... Applicant Company 2 / Transferee Company
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013;
AND
In the matter of Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013;
AND
In the matter of Scheme of Amalgamation of
ISOTRACK INNOVATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
("Applicant Company 1 / Transferor Company")
with
FUNDERMAX INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
("Applicant Company 2 / Transferee Company") and their shareholders
NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING OF THE PETITION
Notice is hereby given that a Joint Company Scheme Petition No. 57 of 2025, is filed under the provisions of Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 for sanction of the Scheme of Amalgamation which provides for the amalgamation of Isotrack Innovative Infrastructure Solutions Private Limited (Applicant Company 1/Transferor Company) with Fundermax India Private Limited (Applicant Company 2 / Transferee Company), and was admitted by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench on 5th January 2026. The said Company Petition is now fixed for final hearing before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench on **27th February 2026.**
If any person concerned is desirous of supporting or opposing the said Petition, he/she should send to the Petitioners's Counsel viz., M & A Associates, A Firm of Practising Company Secretaries #47 Manipal Centre, South Block, Suite no 218, 2nd Floor, Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560042, notice of his/her intention, signed by him/her or his/her advocate not later than two (2) days before the date fixed for the final hearing of the said Petition. Where such person concerned seeks to oppose the said Petition, the grounds of his/her opposition or a copy of his/her affidavit should be furnished with such notice.
A copy of the Petition will be furnished by the Petitioner's Counsel to any person concerned requiring the same, on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.
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PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, AKSHATHA N SHETTY, Residing at #5/1,1st Block, Gruhalakshmi Layout, Nelagadaranahalli, Bengaluru-73 have changed my name as AKSHATHA, vide affidavit dated 7/2/2026 before Notary N.Mahesha, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHIVASHANKARA Y C** S/o. Y S Chandrashekharappa,R/o No.39,2nd Cross, Lakeshore Garden, Dr. K Shivarama Karanth Layout Ganigarahalli, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru 560090 have changed my name to **SHIVASHANKAR Y C** vide affidavit dated 06.02.2026 sworn before notary: H R Karunakara, Blore

I, SADASHIV KORE residing at No.526, GangaShankar, 8th Cross MCECHS Layout, Dr.Shivaram Karanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name to SADASHIV SHANKAR KORE vide affidavit dated 07/02/2026 sworn before notary D.Rajanna, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GEETHA PRIYA S** and **GEETHA PRIYA,** Residing at No77, 5th Main, BEML Layout, Seegehalli, Virgonagar Post, Bengaluru-560049, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **GEETHA PRIYA S** vide affidavit dated 07-02-2026 before notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

I, AYEESHA SULTANA, Residing at No. 147, 6th Ward Thimmakka Layout, Chickballapur- 562101, have changed my name to AYESHA SULTANA vide affidavit dated 04/02/2026, before notary K.H. Venkatappa, Chickballapur.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Karthik Ramesh,** residing No.57, "LV Residency" Flat No.S2, 2nd Floor, 6th Cross, Hanumagiri Layout, Chikkalasandra, Bengaluru-560061, have changed our minor Son's name from **Rudraksh Ashwini Karthik** to **RUDRAKSH KARTHIK** vide affidavit dated 06-02-2026 before notary R.S. Vijay, Bengaluru

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'5,173 hectares to be submerged for Mekedatu project'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Karnataka has informed the Centre that 5,173 hectares of land would be submerged under Mekedatu project.

In its fresh proposal to the ministry of environment and forests seeking clearance, the state government said it plans to construct a balancing reservoir across the Cauvery river at Mekedatu with a storage capacity of 67.17 tmcft.

The proposed reservoir would be built approximately 2 km downstream from the confluence of the Cauvery and Arkavathy rivers, the government said.

"There is no suitable gorge location for water storage either upstream or downstream of the present site within Cauvery wildlife sanctuary. Hence, this location has been found feasible. Upon implementation, the storage location will also be useful in meeting the drinking water needs of wildlife during lean season," the government said.

Furthermore, the construction of the Mekedatu balancing reservoir-cum-drinking water project would enable the utilization of the available head (drop) from the dam, combined with the natural bed slope of the river from the project site to the nearby state border, to generate power from the monthly releases made to Tamil Nadu in a normal year.

This project will ensure that the downstream commitment of releasing 177.25 tmc ft (which includes 10 tmc ft towards environmental flow) to Tamil Nadu — as per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award, further modified by the Supreme Court in its judgment dated Feb 16, 2018 — is met, the state informed the Centre.

It will also address the drinking water needs of Bengaluru metropolitan region and surrounding areas, the proposal said.

Hate Speech Bill: Guv cites 18 SC orders to oppose

State govt relies on two top court orders to justify Bill

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government is relying on two Supreme Court orders to justify legislating on hate speech whereas Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has listed out at least 18 judgements to argue against the proposed law, an internal document shows.

On February 4, the state government sent the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill to President Droupadi Murmu through the ministry of home affairs (MHA), after Gehlot declined to give his assent. *DH* has accessed the state government's communication to the MHA.

The government cited a July 17, 2018 Supreme Court order, which observed: "Hate crimes as a product of intolerance, ideological dominance and prejudice ought not to be tolerated; lest it results in a reign of terror."

The government also quoted a May 5, 2025 order of the Supreme Court: "...we make it clear that any attempt to spread communal hatred or indulge in hate speech must be dealt with an iron hand."

> **THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT**
> Governor
>
> "Terms such as 'public view' are undefined, potentially covering private WhatsApp groups, limited-audience social media posts or even classroom discussions thereby granting unanalysed discretion to police and executive magistrates.

According to the stringent Bill, committing hate crime (including hate speech) will attract a jail term of one year, extendable up to seven, with a fine of Rs 50,000. Subsequent offences have up to seven years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 lakh.

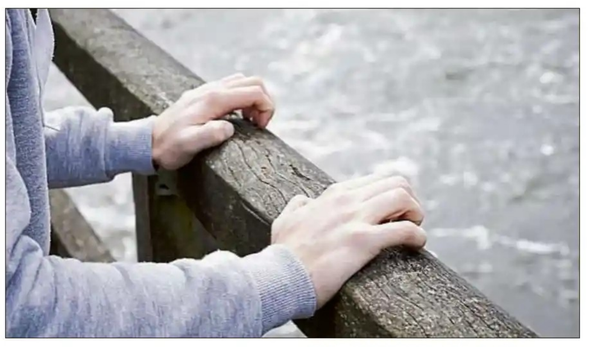
Gehlot referred to 18 Supreme Court judgements, including two from as far back as 1950 - *Romesh Thappar vs State of Madras* and *AK Gopalan vs State of Madras*.

The Bill defines 'hate speech' as any expression made to cause injury, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will in "public view." Gehlot said the term "public view" is undefined, "potentially covering private WhatsApp groups, limited-audience social media posts or even classroom discussions...granting unanalysed discretion" to authorities.

"If someone believes that any word, writing, picture, symbol or digital content causes 'discontent' or 'immortality' against a community or an individual, it can be considered a crime under this law," Gehlot stated, adding that 'discontent' was a mental state that varied from person to person.

"When the state makes such subjective words part of the law, it becomes the biggest weapon in the hands of the bureaucracy," the Governor stated. "Any vague law will ultimately lead to the abuse of the police system."

Gehlot pointed out that India had several laws to "control" hate speech. "There is no doubt that hate speech is harmful to society," he stated. "But killing freedom in the name of preventing hatred is not the solution."



Govt plans to roll out suicide prevention policy

855 students ended their lives in state in 2025

BENGALURU, DHNS

Taking cognisance of the alarming number of suicides reported among students, the Karnataka government is bringing out a Suicide Prevention Policy-2025. Students enrolled at institutions run by departments of education, social welfare, minority welfare, Scheduled Tribes Welfare and backward classes will come under the ambit of the policy, aimed at ensuring timely intervention to help students cope with any kind of crisis.

In the recently concluded session of the state legislature, Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa informed the Legislative Council about the policy, the drafting of which is in the final stages. "The Karnataka Suicide Prevention Policy will be rolled out to protect students at schools and colleges under the purview of various government departments, including Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions (KRIES), among others," said Mahadevappa, replying to a query from Congress MLC Madhu G Madegowda.

Of the 44 students who have died in the past three years at pre-matric and post-matric hostels under KRIES and the Social Welfare Department, some took the extreme step of taking their own life.

The minister admitted that suicides had been reported in these institutions.

As many as 855 students, including those at institutions of higher learning, in Karnataka died by suicide in 2025 as data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau shows.

Homesickness was among the reasons impelling students to take such a drastic step, opined officials. "The policy focuses on interventions to boost student morale, and to offer regular counselling to prepare them for any situation. Mental health is very important," said an official.

Mahadevappa also pointed to the 'Mentor cum Parent-Teacher' initiative implemented at schools and colleges as part of the government's efforts to ensure students' holistic development. The programme entails assigning up to 25 students to a teacher, who is tasked with interacting with each of them regularly and encourage them to share their troubles.

Speaking to *DH*, Mahadevappa said, "Every life is precious. This policy will be applicable to all educational institutions, including the private ones."

Guidelines for FIRs...

Guidelines for FIRs, from Page 1

The following guidelines shall be followed by the police officers, as per the order.

* Before registering an FIR for alleged defamation or similar offences, the police must verify whether the complainant qualifies as the 'person aggrieved'. Complaints by unrelated third parties are not maintainable, except when it is a cognisable offence.

* High threshold for media post/speech-related offences: No case alleging promotion of enmity, intentional insult, public mischief, threat to public order, or sedition shall be registered unless there exists prima facie material disclosing incitement to violence, hatred, or public disorder. This threshold must be applied in line with the principles laid down in Kedar Nath Singh vs State of Bihar, 1962 Supp (2) SCR 769, and Shreya Singhal vs Union of India, (2015) 5 SCC 1.

The police shall not mechanically register cases concerning harsh, offensive, or critical political speech. Constitutional protections for free political criticism under Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution must be scrupulously enforced.

* Since defamation is classified as a non-cognizable offence, the police cannot directly register an FIR or crime in such matters. The complainant must be directed to approach the jurisdictional Magistrate. Police action may follow only upon a specific order of the Magistrate under Section 174(2) of the BNSS.

* Prior legal scrutiny in sensitive cases: In matters involving political speech/post or other sensitive forms of expression, the police shall obtain prior legal opinion from the Public Prosecutor before registering an FIR, to ensure the proposed action is legally sustainable.

"All the officers are directed to follow the guidelines," Saleem said.

Pak govt withdraws boycott of India T20WC match

India-Pak match, From Page 1

The government statement came after Pakistan Cricket Board chief Mohsin Naqvi briefed Sharif about his dialogue with the ICC that also involved Islam on Sunday.

Naqvi had earlier stated that it would take another day to reach a final decision.

"Bangladesh's stance was valid so we had to back them," he asserted.

Bangladesh were ousted from the tournament for refusing to play in India citing security concerns.

Islam issued a statement in Dhaka, expressing his gratitude towards Pakistan for backing his country but requested that the team show up for the high-profile game for the greater good of the sport.

"Following my short visit to Pakistan yesterday and given the forthcoming outcomes of our discussions, I request Pakistan to play the ICC T20 World Cup game on 15 February against India for the benefit of the entire cricket eco system," he added.

Soon after, the ICC also issued a statement in Dubai, saying that it would not be penalising Bangladesh for its refusal to play in India. The country was ultimately replaced by Scotland in the tournament roster.

"It is agreed that no financial, sporting or administrative penalty will be imposed on Bangladesh Cricket Board in relation to the current matter," stated a press release from the world body.

In addition, the ICC also agreed to give the hosting rights of a global event to Bangladesh between 2028 and 2031.

Naqvi brushed aside suggestions that the PCB was under pressure due to ICC's warning of punitive action.

"You know we are not ones to be afraid of these threats at all. Everyone knows our Field Marshall (Asim Munir). We are not worried about any sanctions," he said..

It is understood that during his meeting with ICC deputy chair Imran Khawaja on Sunday, Naqvi had placed a few demands, including resumption of Indo-Pak bilateral cricket and a tri-series involving Bangladesh.

While Indo-Pak bilateral cricket isn't under ICC's purview, the demand for a tri-series was summarily rejected. However, the ICC might consider awarding the next men's Under-19 World Cup to Bangladesh.

A PCB source said that during talks with Khawaja, Naqvi raised a number of grievances.

"He questioned Khwaja if the ICC would have kept quiet if the Pakistan team had refused to accept the Asia Cup trophy at the presentation from any Indian board official," the source said.

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Tribals oppose big cat alliance event in Nagarahole

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Adivasis (tribals) of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve Forest have questioned the government's move to conduct a four-day technical course on conservation of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) in Bandipur and Nagarahole landscapes.

The Nagarahole Adivasi Jamma Pale Hakku Sthapana Samithi, a collective of the Adivasis, said the denial of their ancestral lands and rights, the consequent violation of their human rights, cannot be justified in the name of conservation.

"By showcasing such large-scale violation as a model of conservation to other countries, IBCA will only put additional pressure on our government to drive us out of our ancestral lands," Shivu J, a leader of the Samithi, said.

Inaugurated in 2023, IBCA seeks to channel more funds for conservation of big cats, including tigers, leopards and cheetahs.

Asked whether the Samithi opposes IBCA or just the event, Shivu said they were opposing the move to perpetuate a model of conservation with 'colonial injustice'.

In a statement, the Samithi demanded that the government recognise their legal rights under the Forest Rights Act 2006.

"We, the Jenu Kuruba, Beta Kuruba, Paniya, and Yerava communities of Nagarahole, have been asserting for decades that these forests are our traditional homelands. For generations, we have protected and conserved forests and wildlife through our ancestral knowledge, customary practices and ways of life," it said, urging the government to restore their rights.

GP members can move no-trust motion at any time, except during initial 15 months: HC

Bins petition of GP president challenging AC's order fixing meeting

IN THE HIGH COURT

BENGALURU, DHNS

The elected members of the Gram Panchayat (GP) are entitled to move a Motion of No-Confidence at any point of time during the term, except during the initial period of 15 months from the date on which the members take oath, the Karnataka high court has said in a recent judgement.

"Permitting a Motion of No-Confidence even towards the end of the term ensures that an elected office-bearer does not misuse the remaining tenure for any improper or extraneous purposes," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said, while dismissing the petition filed by C N Srinivas, president of Chaldiganahalli Gram Panchayat, Srinivasapura taluk of Kolar district.

The petitioner challenged the December 20, 2025, notice issued by the Assistant Commissioner (AC), Kolar sub-division, fixing January 7, 2026, as the date of the meeting to consider the requisition of no-confidence motion. The members of Gram Panchayat were elected in the elections held on December 30, 2020.

According to the petitioner, although the original term had expired, it was extended and the notice was issued when only fifteen days remained for the completion of the extended term of the Gram Panchayat. It was contended that the no-confidence motion was moved at the fag-end of the term in a mala fide manner. It was done solely on account of the petitioner not having succumbed to the demands made by certain members for release of a sum of Rs 65 lakh available with the panchayat.

On the other hand, the Additional Advocate General submitted that though the elections were held on December 30, 2020, the first meeting was convened on February 12, 2021, and therefore, the term of the Gram Panchayat would continue till February 11, 2026.

After perusing the provisions, Justice Suraj Govindaraj noted that no infirmity could be found with the notice issued by the Assistant Commissioner fixing the meeting for consideration of the no-confidence motion. The elected members of a Gram Panchayat are entitled to move a no-confidence motion at any point of time during the term, subject only to statutory embargoes, the court said.

"The only embargo contemplated under the statute is during the initial period of 15 months from the date on which the members take oath. There is no embargo prescribed for the latter part of the term. The legislative intent is clear that while stability is ensured during the initial period, elected representatives must remain accountable throughout the term. Permitting a no-confidence motion even towards the end of the term ensures that an elected office-bearer does not misuse the remaining tenure for any improper or extraneous purposes," the court said.

CM urged to expedite trial of surrendered Naxals

BENGALURU, DHNS: A delegation of activists on Monday urged CM Siddaramaiah to expedite the trial and rehabilitation of 8 Naxals who surrendered last year. The delegation included Noor Sridhar, himself a Naxal who surrendered to the state.

The activists sought to draw attention to the plight of the eight Naxals, who continue to languish in jail despite having given up arms. The issue was deliberated upon at a meeting chaired by the CM, at which Home Minister G Parameshwara, the Home Secretary, Director General of Police, CM's legal advisor and the Advocate General were in attendance. The activists said the High Court had rejected the government's plea to set up a special court for the Naxals' speedy trial. They informed the CM that Naxals who surrendered as far back as eight years ago remained incarcerated.

"We urged the CM to complete the pending legal processes within three months. He has assured us that the government will consult legal experts, and initiate the process soon," Sridhar told *DH*. "Only once the cases in Karnataka are cleared can proceedings begin on cases in Tamil Nadu and Kerala," added Sridhar.

In Jan 2025, Kotehonda Ravindra (44) of Kigga village in Sringeri surrendered to Chikkamagaluru district administration, while Thombattu Lakshmi aka Lakshmi Poojarthi (41) surrendered to Udupi authorities. On Jan 8 this year, 6 other Naxals – Latha Mundagaru, Vanajakshi Balehole, Sundari Kuthlur, Mareppa Aroli along with K Vasantha from TN and T N Jisha from Kerala – surrendered before the CM following negotiations between Citizens' Initiative for Peace and the state-appointed committee.

Although these Naxals have to face trial in more than 250 cases, including those registered under Arms Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the state Cabinet can use its discretion to withdraw minor cases to help reintegration into mainstream.

After Naxal leader Vikram Gowda was killed in an alleged exchange of fire with the Anti-Naxal Force in Nov 2024, those Naxals who had surrendered raised concerns about being treated as criminals. They wanted to be treated with respect, besides seeking speedy trials through a special court, no opposition to bail pleas and co-ordination with governments in TN and Kerala on pending cases. They also demanded a judicial inquiry into Gowda's killing.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(A wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

BESCOM invites tender through KPP Portal vide **Enquiry No.**BESCOM/2025-26/IND0183/CALL-2 for supply of**"L.T. Protection Kit."** Bid documents available from **11.02.2026.** Last date for bid submission is **20.02.2026, 17.15 Hrs.** Opening of bid document is on **21.02.2026, 17.30 Hrs.** The Tender documents can be obtained through KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with KPP helpdesk contact numbers (**+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777**) or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/-Chief General Manager(Ele.), Procurement, BESCOM, 2nd Floor, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560 001, Ph.No: 080-22354939.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/Tr(Op)ZB/SEE(O)/AE-1/F-428 & 429/2025-26/9971-72 & 9973-74 Date: 06.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids on **Total Turnkey basis** for the following works.

1) **Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/TK-30/2025-26** for Strengthening of earthing efficiency by providing CI Pipe and GI Flats at 220/66/11kV Jigani receiving station in Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

2) **Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/TK-29/2025-26** for Strengthening of earthing efficiency by providing CI Pipe and GI Flats at 220/66/11kV Kanakapura receiving station in Kanakapura Taluk, Bengaluru South District.

The Bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging into **Karnataka Public Procurement (KPP) Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.02.2026**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer Electy.,Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560009.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕೊಟ್ಟಾರ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
ಟೆಂ.ಅ.ಸಂ:ದ.ಕ.ಜಿ.ಪ/ಮಂ/ಟೆಂಡರ್-16/ಎಇ-1/2025-26/2196 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09-02-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಂ.ಆರ್.ಪಿ.ಎಲ್ ನ ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್. ಫಂಡ್‌ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವರ್ಷನ್-2 ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: (1) ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ತಾಲೂಕು ಜೋಕಟ್ಟೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಬಿ.ಎಸ್ ರೈಲ್ವೇಗೇಟ್ ನಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ 1ಕಿ.ಮೀ ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಇ.ಝೆಡ್.ಎಲ್ ಬಳಿಯಿಂದ ಹೆಚ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಎಲ್ ಹಳೆ ಮಸೀದಿ ಹಾಗೂ ರೈಲ್ವೇಗೇಟ್ ತನಕ ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ದಾರಿದೀಪ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ, ವರ್ಕ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್: 24048 , ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ.186.07ಲಕ್ಷ

(1) ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-02-2026 ರಂದು ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21-02-2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-02-2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ, ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ದ.ಕ.ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1555/25-26 Dt. 09.02.2026

ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ
ಮಹಾತ್ಮಗಾಂಧಿ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣ, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560022 ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 23472850/23371695
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:apmcbangalore22@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೃಉಮಾಸ(ಬೆಂ)/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/5038/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08-02-2026

-:ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಕರೆ-3:-

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯ, 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾಗಿರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಷರತ್ತು-ವಾ-ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊಬಲಗು (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1.	2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ-ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾಗಿರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ Replacing deteriorated/damaged/burnt out streetlights, U.G. Cable, streetlight control boxes, high mast lights, L.T. U.G. loop cable, additional streetlight poles, LT meter bank panels etc and also providing CCTV for all the Gates and important places in the yard at main market yard of Yeshwantpur APMC ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.	69,02,312.00 (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ)	1,38,100.00

INDENT NO: APMC/2025-26/BD/WORK-INDENT639/CALL-3

ಅರ್ಹತೆ: **KW-03 ರಂತೆ**

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-02-2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ:5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಕೃಉಮಾಸ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಸಿಪಿ/5542/ಸಿಸಿಎಲ್/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KALABURAGI
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
E-mail:directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Phone No 08472-260252

No. GIMS/KLB/Tender/Print/CR/150/2025-26/2963 Date : 09/02/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi invites tender for eligible bidders in bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement 2.0 mode for the **SUPPLY OF "PRINTING ITEMS" For Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi.** Details are available in the site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for upload of e-tender in E-procurement platform as follows.
1) Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from website-https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in No. GIMS/KLB/Tender/Print/CR/150/2025-26, Date:09.02.2026. IND. No: DME/2025-26/IND2067 2) Last Date for Queries: **16-02-2026 at 17:00 pm**, 3) Pre-bid Meeting: **18-02-2026 at 11:00 am**, 4) Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before: **25-02-2026 at 4.30 pm**, 5) Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid: **26-02-2026 at 05:00 pm,** 6) Opening of Tenders Financial bid: **27-02-2026 at 05:00 pm**, 7) Tender amount: **Rs. 1,16,51,132=00,** 8) EMD: Rs. 2,00,000=00, 9) Contact Details: Director, GIMS Kalaburagi veresh Nagar sedam road Kalaburagi 585105. Office Email: directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Land Line : 08472-260252 Cell: +91 9482093568, Tender Section Email: gimstenderklb22@gmail.com, Cell:+91 9972688602

Sd/- Director
Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1064/KSMC&A/2025-26

Executive Engineer B.T.D.A, Dn No.2,Bagalkot
No:EE/BTDA/Dn.2/Tender-08/2025-26/3305 Dated:09.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited by the under signed for the works on Lumsum Turnkey Bases from registered eligible contractors.
1.Indent No: 84 Amount Put To Tender Rs. 3586.80 Lakhs (Exclusive G.S.T) And 2.Indent No: 85 Amount Put To Tender Rs. 6742.43 Lakhs (Exclusive G.S.T).

The intending bidders for work details may login to KPPP website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in for detailed notification and submission of the tender. The tender can be submitted till 27.02.2026 up to 5:00 PM Technical bid will be opened on 02.03.2026 at 11:00 AM (if possible). And Financial bids will be opened on 04.03.2026 at 11:00 AM (if possible). Any other details can be obtained from this office in person or over telephone number 08534-297054.

Please note henceforth, any changes in calendar of events/ corrigendum/ ammendment will be published in KPPP portal only and will not be published in Newspaper.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
BTDA, Division No.02 Bagalkote

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-576/KSMCA/2025-26

Public Works Department
Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur

I.F.T No.19/2025-26 Date: 04.02.2026

(For Road/bridges/buildings–Improvements/Construction/ maint & services–As per SBD KW 1,2&4 and K/C-8 in Two Tender Document System (Two Cover)

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, as per KPPP Act 2000, the undersigned invite tenders for works in two cover system through KPP Portal from eligible contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders **from Date: 04.02.2026 to 19.02.2026 &11.02.2026, Date: 05.02.2026 to 12.02.2026 and Date:09.02.2026 to 24.02.2026 up to 04:00 pm**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours on works days or from websites:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Chikkaballapur.

DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/R.O.NO:410/KSMCA/2025-26

एनएमडीसी
NMDC

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - L13100TG1958GOI001674

WORKS DIVISION - CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT
E-Tender Notice (Open Tender Enquiry for Domestic Bidding)

Tender Enquiry No.: HO (Contracts)/ET Hostel/DIOM/2026/308 **Dt:** 10.02.2026

NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites **online bids** through **MSTC Portal** from experienced domestic bidders for the work of **Construction of New Executive Trainee Hostel (S+5) Building at NMDC Donimalai Township, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District, Karnataka.**

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and / or downloaded from **10.02.2026** to **09.03.2026** from following website links;

1. NMDC website - **https://nmdcportals.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender**
2. Central Public Procurement portal – **https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app** and search tender through tender enquiry number
3. MSTC Portal - portal **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn/**

For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidders to visit MSTC website (use Microsoft Edge browser for compatibility) and search **Tender Event No. NMDC/Head Office/Contract/62/25-26/ET/695.**

The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Portal. The details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT. The Bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website/CPP Portal/ MSTC Portal for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted :

Senior Manager (Electrical) / Contracts, NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Fax No. 040-23534746, Telephone No. 040-23532800, email: **contracts@nmdc.co.in**

For and on behalf of NMDC Ltd.
Executive Director (Works)

KARNATAKA STATE BEVERAGES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
4th Floor, TTMC Building 'A' Block, BMTC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027, Ph: 080-22483636/38/39

No.KSBCL/INFRA/ADM11-105&106/2025-26 Date: 09.02.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal only)

The Executive Director (A&I), Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Ltd, Bangalore invites item rate Tenders on behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 & rules 2000, in two cover tender document system from the Class-I civil contractors/firms registered in Karnataka KPWD. Other details can be obtained through e-procurement portal at the website address **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in**

Name of work: **1)** Construction of Approach Road (C.C Road) to KSBCL Dept. at Haveri from Haveri-Guttala Road. **Amount put to tender**: Rs. 1,50,83,488/- + GST. **EMD:** Rs. 2,26,252/-. **Period of completion:** 6 months (Excluding Monsoon).

2) Construction of Approach Road (C.C Road) to KSBCL Depot. from NH-206 at Chitradurga. **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 1,22,12,380/- + GST. **EMD:** Rs. 1,83,186/-. **Period of completion:** 6 months (Excluding Monsoon).

1. Last date & time for tender queries : **11.03.2026-12.30 P.M. 2.** Date of pre-bid meeting : **12.03.2026-03.00 P.M. 3.** Last date & time for receipt of tenders : **24.03.2026-05.30 P.M. 4.** Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid : **26.03.2026 at 4:00 PM.**

Sd/-
Executive Director (A&I)
KSBCL, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/JA/5537/2025-26

Zilla Panchayath Kolar-563101
Office of the Executive Engineer Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Kolar-563101
Phone No: 08152-222570, e-mail: eepredkolar1@gmail.com
No: 24/2025-26 Date: 06.02.2026

Short term Two Cover System Tender Notice
(Through KPPP e-Procurement KW-III)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Act 2000 item rate tenders were invited in two cover system (SBD) in the forms KW-3 through KPPP e-procurement from authorized PWD contractors registered in appropriate class for KW-3 Indent No's: 19997 & 19998 (General Category) amount put to tender is Rs. 84.51 lakhs (Bangarpet Taluk 02 Road Works) The contractor's are requested for participate in KPP Portal e-Tender through GOK website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Pre bid meeting schedule **dt : 19.02.2026 at 11.00 AM** in the undersigned office last date for submission of tender application and uploading tender forms through website from **dt: 06.02.2026 to 20.02.2026 up to 4.00pm** and date of opening of technical bids in KPP portal on **date: 21.02.2026 at 04.30 pm** The eligible technically qualified contractors financial bids opening **date : 23.02.2026 at 11.00 am.** The notification can be obtained from the KPPP e-procurement portal. Further details can be had from the above office on all working days in working hours. KPP Portal helpline No's for tender clarification with respect uploading and downloading you can contact: **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777, +91-9240214000, +91-9240214001**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:489/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.
ಸಂ/ಉನಿ/ಸಕಇ/ಮಂ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ಸಿಆರ್-10/2025-26
ದಿ:04-02-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖಾವತಿಯಿಂದ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪೂರ್ವ/ನಂತರದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳು/ಆಶ್ರಮ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೊರಾರ್ಜಿ ದೇಸಾಯಿ/ಕಿತ್ತೂರು ರಾಣಿ/ಡಾ.ಬಿ.ಆರ್ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ /ಇಂದಿರಾ ಗಾಂಧಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ವೃಂದದ ಬೋಧಕ/ಬೋಧಕೇತರ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲದ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

Calendar of Events

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ & ದಿನಾಂಕ : **ಸಂ/ಉನಿ/ಸಕಇ/ಮಂ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ಸಿಆರ್-10/2025-26 ದಿ:04-02-2026.** (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. 961.40 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. (3) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ.14,42,100-00. (4) e-portal ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.02.2026 ರಿಂದ (5) e-portal ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ : ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.02.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ. (6) Prebid ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ : 10.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ. (7) e-portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು & ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ.(ಸ್ಥಳ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ) (8) e-portal ನ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆದು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 20.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ (ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ). (9) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : Website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಅಥವಾ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳ ಸಮುಚ್ಚಯ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ e-mail- dswomandya@gmail.com, Phone No:08232-220772

ಸಹಿ/-ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸನಿ-ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/778/2025-26

Govt of Karnataka
Town Municipal Council, Kampli. Ballari Dist.
Email : ka.kampli.tmc@gmail.com
website : www.kamplitown.mrc.gov.in

No:TMCK/AMRUT2.0/PARK/01/2025-26 Date:07.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP Portal)

The Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Kampli. Invites tenders in two cover system using standard tender document for Development Somappa Park as below
Name of the Works & Indent No: Development of Somappa park DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT50638/CALL-2.
Estimate Amount in Lakhs : 104.81
Interested Contractors shall register on the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in platform to participate in this tender; Contractors can download the tender documents from the KPPP platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically & tender processing fee & EMD shall also be paid electronically.
Last date & time for tender queries / clarifications: **Date 23.02.206 at 11.00 Hrs.** Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **Date 23.02.2026 at 17.00 hrs.** Date & time for opening of (technical bids): **Date 25.02.2026 at 11:00 Hrs**

Sd/- Chief Officer TMC Kampli.

DIPR/Ballari/983/KSMCA/2025-26

Office of the Mission Director,
National Livelihood Mission, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Dept.,
 # 4, 2nd Floor, MYSUGAR Building, J.C. Road, Near Town Hall, Bengaluru-560002. email: nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com

No. KSRLPS/PROC/GEN/29/2025-PRCT-KSRLPS Date: 09.02.2026

Tender Notification

The National Livelihood Mission (NLM), Karnataka invites Requests for Proposal (RFP) for Hiring of Security Services Agency for Providing Security Guards at Bengaluru Santhe. The RFP was published through the KPPP Portal on 06.02.2026. Interested and eligible bidders may participate by logging on to the website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The last date for submission of the RFP is 21.02.2026, on or before 5:00 PM. Kindly refer to the tender document for the detailed schedule and further information.

Tender No.: KSRLPS/2025-26/SE0050.

Sd/-
Additional Mission Director
Sanjeevini-KSRLPS, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/5550/AKAR/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.CEE/Tr(O)ZM/SEE(O)/EE Civil/EOD-1/25-26/9257 Date: 07.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites e-bids for the following works.

1. Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2486/Call-3 for Drilling of New bore well and water supply system arrangement at 220/66/11kV **Madhuvanahally** sub-station, Chamarajanagar District.

2. Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2989 for Construction of RCC Road and other allied works at 66kV sub-station at **KM Doddi** in Maddur Taluk, Mandya District. **Reserved for CAT - I Category - Call - 2**

3. Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3293 for Providing Boundary compound wall to the balance portion of 66/11kV sub-station, **Santhemarahalli**, Chamarajanagar District.

The tender for the above work is invited through electronic mode. The interested bidders can obtain the application in electronic mode by paying the tender fee. The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 20.02.2026.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, Ground Floor, FTS Compound, NR Mohalla, Mysuru - 570007

Armed personnel to ensure MM Hill padayatris' safety

Devotees embark on a padayatra on the route from Talabetta to MM Hills temple in Hanur taluk of Chamarajanagar district. DH PHOTO

Security heightened after a leopard killed a devotee

GAYATHRI V RAJ
MYSURU, DHNS

Armed personnel will provide protection to the pilgrims on a padayatra to Malai Mahadeshwara Swamy Hill temple, from Talabetta, during the Mahashivaratri festival this year.

MM Hill, a popular pilgrim centre in Hanur taluk, Chamarajanagar district, receives lakhs of devotees for the annual Mahashivaratri jatra mahotsava, scheduled to be celebrated from February 14 to 18.

The Chamarajanagar district administration, Forest department and the MM Hill Temple Development Authority (MMSTDA) have heightened security measures after a leopard mauled a devotee on padayatra on January 22. However, the Forest department personnel swung into action, launched a combing operation and rescued the three-year-old male leopard after tranquilising it, instilling confidence among the pilgrims. After the incident, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre and District in-charge Minister K Venkatesh held meetings with the authorities on ensuring safety of the devotees, forest and wildlife.

According to MM Hills Deputy Conservator of Forests Bhaskar, seven teams have been constituted - one each for a kilometre. The team consists of five members, including one from the Police department, one from anti-poaching camp, home guards and a person from MMSTDA. Range Forest officers will supervise the teams.

SRIROOPA
Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar

"We have taken all measures as directed by the forest minister and district in-charge minister for the safety of the pilgrims. The padayatra timings will be from 7 am to 4 pm.

Each team will be provided with guns, walkie-talkies, torchlights, crackers, machete and canes (lathi). Additional personnel led by Deputy Range Forest Officer and patrolling forest guards, will patrol the padayatra route in two vehicles, the DCF said.

"We have requested the government to deploy the Leopard Task Force from Mysuru, and drone teams," he said.

Speaking to *DH*, Chamarajanagar Deputy Commissioner Sriroopa said, "We have taken all measures as directed by the forest minister and district in-charge minister for the safety of the pilgrims. The padayatra timings will be from 7 am to 4 pm," she said.

Besides, measures have been taken to make the MM Hills a plastic-free zone. The authorities concerned have been told not to distribute food or water in plastic materials. Plastic water bottles are banned. The Forest department will confiscate any plastic bottle, cover or article from the devotees at the checkposts, the DC said.

Release list of people granted Cabinet, MoS ranks: Ravikumar to CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Whip of the Opposition in the Legislative Council N Ravikumar on Monday urged the state government to release the list of people who had been awarded Cabinet and Minister of State (MoS) ranks.

Addressing a press conference, Ravikumar cited a media report and claimed that 150 persons had been awarded Cabinet and MoS ranks in the state.

Ravikumar

"As per an act (Constitution 91st Amendment Act, 2003) in 2003, only 15% of the people can be ministers. Because of this, this government is conspiring to give Cabinet rank to people through backdoor methods. Even those who are not legislators have been given this rank. There are currently 138 Congress MLAs but as many as 150 people have Cabinet rank. This is causing a burden of around Rs 50 crore per month on the government."

The MLC urged the government to release a white paper on the expenses being incurred and urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to release a list of all those who had been granted Cabinet and MoS ranks.

DKS defends decision

Defending the government's decision, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said: "Sometimes, we follow the BJP too. We saw how they made appointments (of chairmen) during their tenure. It is the Congress party workers who got the party to power and not D K Shivakumar or Siddaramaiah. They got the party to power and now they will get power. Many more will get to share power and we have given them timelines."

Dismissing the BJP's charge that taxpayers' money was being "wasted," Shivakumar said: "The party workers deserve this status as it is the respect we give them. It is not the public money but a provision given by the government. We will take care of any fund crunch in the boards."

Bill to protect properties belonging to govt schools

Properties belonging to 18,791 schools are under threat: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

The school education and literacy department, in association with the revenue department, is introducing 'The Karnataka School Education Department Properties Protection Bill 2025 or the Karnataka Protection of Government School/College Properties Bill' to protect the properties belonging to government schools.

In a reply to a question by the BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal in the recent special session of the legislature, School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa said that the proposal regarding the bill is under verification.

As per the details provided by the minister in his reply, the properties belonging to over 18,791 schools are under threat as they do not have land records in the name of the respective schools.

"We also conduct the Government School and Educational Institutions Property Protection Campaign every year. The deputy commissioner of the respective district has been assigned the responsibility," the minister responded.

Of the 18,791 schools mentioned by the minister, 17,356 are primary schools and 1,435 high schools don't have revenue documents in their names.

"The proposal to bring a separate bill to protect the properties is under consideration," he said.

The state has 48,436 government schools. Of this, 43,564 are primary schools and 4,872 are high schools. As most government school properties have been donated, some people have even filed court cases claiming the land belongs to them because their ancestors donated it.

"Not having revenue documents in the name of schools has even forced the department to put off development works," a source said.

Interestingly, Shivamogga, the home district of Minister Madhu Bangarappa, has the highest number of schools without land records, with 1,192. He is also the district in-charge minister. This is followed by 1,124 in Mandya, 1,063 in Tumakuru, 958 in Kalburgi, and 877 in Bengaluru South district.

Sampurna challenge to resolve food wastage

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government on Monday announced the Sampurna Grand Challenge 2026 to resolve food wastage.

The initiative is a joint venture of the government with partners including GAIN, Nutrition Connect, Think through Counselling and Association of Business Women in Commerce and Industry.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah explained that the initiative planned to create a platform for innovators, investors and different organisations.

In a press statement, Siddaramaiah said Karnataka was "relentlessly" working to further strengthen agriculture and horticulture sectors.

"Through the challenge, the government intends to bring together innovations and investment in agriculture and horticulture, seeks to reduce food wastage and build a strong system," the CM said.

He said by bringing together the government, innovators and stakeholders in different fields, and by using data technology and existing agriculture-horticulture value chain, the government intended to find ways to deal with solutions that could be expanded on a large scale. Siddaramaiah explained that the goals were to increase farmers' income, do value addition, hasten innovations and introduce tech-based solutions.

SIDDARAMAIAH
Chief Minister

"Through the challenge, the government intends to bring together innovations and investment in agriculture and horticulture, seeks to reduce food wastage and build a strong system.

A screen grab of the BMTC bus hitting multiple vehicles at Kamalangar in the city.

BMTC bus rampage: 5 vehicles damaged after 'brake failure'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Commuters at the Kamalanagar bus stand had a narrow escape on Sunday evening after an out-of-control Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus rammed into multiple vehicles.

The accident occurred when the bus, proceeding from Kamalanagar to Basaveshwaranagar, collided with an autorickshaw, two cars, and two two-wheelers. CCTV footage of the incident, which has since gone viral, shows the bus ploughing into the stationary vehicles, mounting one of the scooters in the process.

Despite the chaotic scene and significant property damage, Vijayanagara traffic police confirmed that no fatalities or serious injuries were reported.

The driver, who has been taken into custody, attributed the mishap to a technical snag. "The driver claims the brake vacuum failed, making him unable to stop the vehicle," a senior police officer stated. The Vijayanagara traffic police have seized the bus for a technical inspection to verify these claims. Investigation is in progress.

Traditional pride Mysore Sandal Soap gets a new look

BENGALURU, DHNS: The two-year tenure of renowned film actress Tamannaah Bhatia as the brand ambassador for products manufactured by the State-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) will commence on Tuesday. The KSDL has taken up the measure as part of efforts to strengthen the market presence of its products, said Minister for Large and Medium Industries M B Patil.

On the same occasion, the iconic heritage product Mysore Sandal Soap will be relaunched with a refreshed and contemporary look.

Speaking on Monday, the minister said that KSDL has set a target of scaling up its annual turnover to Rs 5,000 crore by 2030. In line with this objective, a comprehensive promotional campaign is being undertaken to reach the youth.

Actress Tamannaah, who enjoys considerable star appeal and has over 3 million followers on social media, has been engaged as part of this strategy. The initiative is expected to help create a strong market for the company's products, including Mysore Sandal Soap, in North India as well, he said.

S&T WORKS AT LUMDING DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. SNT-41-LMG-2025-26 Dated: 04-02-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **E-Tender No. SNT-41-LMG-2025-26. Name of work:** S&T works for shifting of S&T cable in connection with construction of Trip Inspection Shed at Kamakhya station. **Tender Value:** ₹17,53,157.71/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹35,100/-.**Date & Time of closing of tender:** At **15.00** hrs. **& opening at 15.30** hrs. on **26-02-2026.** The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DSTE, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works before 15:00hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30hrs. : **Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of Work; Tender Value & Earnest Money** respectively: **1) E-KGP-EAST-06-2026;** Panskura : Increasing CSL of the Lines having short CSL at Panskura Station & Panskura Yard : Removal of Pasraha 75 kmph on UP Line, 110 kmph in DN & MID line, including correction of layout at Panskura east outer yard and Panskura-Raghunathbari to Kharagpur; ₹ 14,94,33,189.40; ₹ 8,97,200.00; **(2); E-KGP-EAST-07-2026;** 1) Deulti Yard : Improvement of defective layout for removal of Pasraha -110 KMPH. 2) Fuleswar Yard: Improvement of defective layout on UP Main Line for removal of Pasraha -110 KMPH Improvement of Drainage system 3) Andul Yard: Removal of Pasraha 110 kmph by Yard remodeling. Also improvement of Drainage system; ₹ 14,89,25,994.38; ₹ 8,94,600.00. **(3); E-KGP-EAST-08-2026;** Execution of work 1) Shalimar: Devlopment of 2(two) lines for loading /unloading and engine reversal to deal parcel traffic at PTR Siding of Shalimar 2) Santragachi Connectivity of Hospital Siding Line No-2,5 & 6 with WCD Yard along with extension of Shunting Neck. under the jurisdiction of DEN/East/Kharagpur; ₹ 12,05,15,268.18; ₹ 7,52,600.00. **(4); E-KGP-EAST-09-2026;** 1) Uluberia (ULB)- Increasing of CSL of DN Main, Middle Line & UP Main Line and connectivity of Tower Wagon Shed with EMU Stabling line with Signal 2) Bagnan (BZN) Increasing of CSL of UP Main Line & UP Loop Line 3) Bhogpur (BOP) Increasing of CSL of CSL of the UP Main and common Loop line, under the jurisdiction of DEN/EAST/ Kharagpur; ₹ 12,22,06,984.90; ₹ 7,61,000.00; **Tender Document Cost :** ₹ 0.00 (for Sl. No. 1 to 4); **Date of opening :** 05/03/2026 (for Sl. No. 1 & 2) & 10/03/ 2026 (for Sl. No. 3 & 4); **Completion period of the work :** 15 Months (for Sl. No. 1 to 4); **Bidding Start Date:** For Sl. No. 1 to 2 from 19.02.2026 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 05/03/2026; **Bidding Start Date:** For Sl. No. 3 to 4 from 24.02.2026 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 10/03/2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders.

(PR-1162)

JAPIT
Jharkhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology
(An Autonomous body under Department of Information Technology, Govt. of Jharkhand)
Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel – I, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand
Phone. 0651-2401040, 2401067 Fax.- 0651-2401040

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

On behalf of the Department of Home, Prisons and Disaster Management, Government of Jharkhand, JAP-IT invites Online Bids through Jharkhand e-procurement portal (https:\\Jharkhandtenders.gov.in) for "Selection of Service Provider for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of CCTV Based Surveillance System at Police Stations Buildings in Jharkhand".

Details are as follows :

1.	Tender Reference number	JAP-IT/CCTV/PS/01/2026
2.	Name of Work	Selection of Service Provider for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of CCTV Based Surveillance System at Police Stations Buildings in Jharkhand
3.	Earnest Money Deposit(EMD)	INR 2,30,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Thirty Lakhs Only) through Jharkhand e-Procurement portal
4.	Start date downloading Tender document	08.02.2026
5.	Last Date for sending Pre-Bid Query	14.02.2026
6.	Pre-bid meeting	17.02.2026, 03:00 PM
7.	Start date of bid submission	24.02.2026, 05:00 PM
8.	Last date and time of Online Bid Submission	05.03.2026, 03:00 PM
9.	Technical Bid Opening	06.03.2026, 03:30 PM
10.	Commercial Bid Opening	To be informed later.
11.	Place of Pre-Bid Meeting/ Communication/ Bid Submission/ Bid Opening	JAP-IT, Ground Floor, Engineers Hostel 1, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
12.	Contact/ Pre-Bid query e-mail ID	Tel: 0651-2401044 Email: ceo.japit@jharkhandmail.gov.in / japit_doit@rediffmail.com

Note : 1. JAP-IT reserves the right to change the conditions or cancel the tendering process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof. Please visit the portal regularly for the same.
2. The Bidders are advised to submit the Bids well in advance as JAP-IT/GoJ will not be responsible for non-submission of the bids because of any technical glitches

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer,
JAP-IT

PR 372580 Information Technology (25-26)_D

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1,
Amurthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru – 560 092

No.: BNCC/EE(QA/QC)/TEND/05/25-26 **Date: 09.02.2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Only through KPP Portal)

Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance/Quality Control Division, Zone-1 invites Request for Proposal from interested persons / firms **those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC)** for the below work through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer QA/QC Division, Zone-1, BNCC.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for Package-1** 1. Improvements to Drain and Footpath at Wheeler Road Extension from Pottery Road to 6th Cross and Surrounding area in Sarvagna Nagara Division. 2. Improvements to Drain and Footpath Work at Hutchins Road, 6th Cross Jai Bharath Nagara and Surrounding area in Sarvagna Nagara Division. 3. Improvements to Road and Drains at Rajkumar Under Pass and below Lingarajapura Flyover in Sarvagna Nagara Division. 4. Improvements to Drain and Footpath at Banasawadi Main Road from ITC Bridge to Jeevanahalli Main Road both Sides and Surrounding area in Sarvagna Nagara Division. **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 1050.00, PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.39, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 21,000/-.**
2	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for Package-2** 1. Improvements to Road and Drains at 9th Main, Pillanna Garden from Arabic College Road to 12th Pillanna garden in Sarvagna Nagara Division. 2. Improvements to Road, Drain and Footpath Karnmanahalli Main Road from Empire Hotel to Corporation Bank in Sarvagna Nagara Division. 3. Resurfacing of Oil Mill Road from Karnmanahalli Main Road to Hennur Main Road in Sarvagna Nagara Division. 4. Improvements to Roads, Drains and Footpath Work at 5th Main HRBR Layout 2nd Block from Kullappa Circle to Service Road in Sarvagna Nagara Division. 5. Resurfacing of 9th Main HRBR Layout 1st Block from Service Road to 2nd Cross and Surrounding area in Sarvagna Nagara Division. 6. Resurfacing of Banasawadi Main Road from Ram Murthy Circle to Mukutamma Temple in Sarvagna Nagara Division. **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 1000.00, PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.99, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,000/-.**
3	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for Package-3** 1. Improvements to Roads and Footpath (Both Side) of Chikka Banasawadi Main Road from Bata Show Room to 3rd Cross Chikkabanasawadi in Sarvagna Nagara Division. 2. Improvements to Drains and Footpath at 4th Cross OMBR Layout from 7th Main to Channasandra Main Road and 7th Main, Babusapalya, HRBR Layout in Sarvagna Nagara Division. 3. Improvements to Footpath and Drains at 2nd Cross HRBR 1st Block from 7th Main to 100 Feet Road in Sarvagna Nagara Division. 4. Improvements to Roads, Drains and Culverts at Grace Garden 1st Cross, Raghavendra Nagara 1st, 2nd and 3rd Cross Roads in Ward No.76, Hennur. 5. Improvements to Roads, Drains and Culverts at HBR Layout 4th Block, 4th Main Road (VBR College Road) and 5th Block 24th Cross Road. **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 1045.00, PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.34, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 21,000/-.**
4	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for Package- 4** 1. Improvements to Roads, Drains and Culverts at HBR 4th Block, 1st Main Road (Forest Road), 4th, 4th A Main Road and 2nd Cross Road in Ward No.76, Hennur. 2. Improvements to Roads, Drains and Culverts at KHB Main Road From Railway Gate to ORR, Sandygappa Layout Cross Road and Veeranna palya Colony 2nd and 3rd Cross Roads in Ward No.77, Nagawara. 3. Improvements to Roads, Drains and Culverts from Indira Canteen to BSNL Office (SWD Service Road) in HBR Layout 2nd Block in Ward No. 78, HBR layout. 4. Improvements to Roads, Drains and Culverts at HBR 2nd Block, JSS Public School Road, 6th Main, 2nd A, 3rd A, 4th A, 5th A, 5th B, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Cross Roads in Teachers Colony in Ward No.78, HBR layout. **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 1000.00, PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.99, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,000/-.**
5	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for Package-5** 1. Improvements to Roads, Drains and Culverts at 1st and 2nd Main Roads Basappa Layout, Hennur Village Main Road, Gowdara Colony 1st A, 1st B Cross Roads, 5th Block 36th A, B and C Cross Roads in Ward No-76 Hennur. 2. Improvements to Roads, Drains and Culverts at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 11th Cross Roads Shivaramaiah Layout, 3rd Block 2nd, 8th, 11th A, 11th B, 12th and 13th Cross Roads and 1st Main Road in Ward No-76 Hennur. 3. Improvements to Roads and Drains at Veerannapalya 2nd Main 1st A Cross, Mahaboob Nagara 1st Cross, Ibrahim Saheb Street Main Road, Rashad Nagara 1st Main, Rashad Nagara 30kg 4th, 30kg 5th Cross, Umar Nagara 1st, 2nd, 3rd , 9th, 14th Cross Roads, Kuppuswamy Layout 1st Main Road in Ward No-77 Nagawara. **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 1120.00, PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.95, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 22,500/-.**
6	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for Package- 6** 1. Improvements to Drain and Asphalting / CC to Roads at Ajmallappa layout 2nd F, 1st A, 1st B Cross BDA layout, 3rd A Main, Ramamurthy Road, 3rd Main, 1st, 2nd and 4th Main Keerthi layout, 1st, 5th, 6th and 11th Cross Hennur main road, 1st A, B Cross, 2nd Cross Roads, Kanakadasa Road, 14th Cross, 2nd Main Ajmallappa Layout, CMR PU College Road in Ward No.80, Kacharakanahalli. 2. Improvements to Drain and Asphalting / CC to Roads at 2nd Cross, 5th Cross, 5th main, 6th Cross Kamanahalli, 5th A Cross, 7th B Main, HRBR 1st Block, 5th A Cross, 5th D Main HRBR 2nd block (from CMR main to Xavier's studio), 3rd B Cross, 3rd C Cross, 3rd D Cross, 6th A main, 2nd A Cross, 5th C Cross, 5th B Cross, 1st Cross, 4th Cross, 6th B Main, 5th Cross, 6th Cross in Ward No.81, Kammanahalli. 3. Improvements to Drain and Asphalting / CC to Roads at 1st Cross Chandramma layout, Dodda Banasawadi Cross, Vijaya bank colony 1st main and 1st, 4th & 5th Cross Roads, 2nd main T Krishnareddy layout, Nanjunda reddy main road and Cross Roads, Muniswamappa layout main and 2nd Cross to 4th C Cross roads, OMBR layout 2nd A and B main roads, 3rd Cross road, Bhuvanagiri layout 2nd, 2nd G and 5th Cross, 2nd E main road, 6th B, C and D Cross roads in Ward No.82, Banasawadi. **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 1070.00, PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.54, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 21,500/-.**
7	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PM C) for Package-7** 1. Improvements to Drain and Asphalting / CC to Roads at ITC Colony Main and Cross Roads, Vishweshwaraiah Road, 3rd Cross, Mariamma Street, Jeevanahalli 1st Cross to 8th Cross Road, Maria Niketan, School Road in Ward No.85, Maruthiseva Nagara. 2. Improvements to Drain and Asphalting / CC to Roads at 2nd main Vinobha Nagara, 10th Cross Vinobha nagar, 10th Cross BM layout, Sri Abaya Rama temple road, 2nd main D Cross BM layout, 3rd main A street BM layout, 3rd main BM layout, 12th main in Ward No.79, K.G Halli. 3. Improvements to Drain and Asphalting / CC to Roads at Patel G Kullapa Road, Hutchins road 3rd, 3rd B, 3rd C, 4th A, 4th B and 5th Cross Roads, Satyamurthy Road, 2nd Cross and 4th Cross Road, Ashoka road, North road in Ward No.83, Subbaiahna Palya and Ward No. 84, Lingarajapura. 4. Improvements to Roads and Drains, 9th and 10th Main Roads (KPTCL) in HBR Layout 3rd Block in Ward No-76 Hennur. 5. Improvements to Roads & Drains at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th main HBR 1st Block in Ward No.80 Kacharakanahalli and 8th A, B, C, D, 4th A, B Cross HRBR 1st Block in Ward No.82, Banasawadi. 6. Improvements to CC Roads and Drains at 1st and 2nd Cross Krishnappa Layout (from VST Road to Gundappa Mutt Road), Sait Palya (from Oil Mill Road to Masjid Road), Masjid Road (From Hennur Main Road to Amruth Theater Road) in Ward No-84, Lingarajapura. **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 1050.00, PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.38, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 21,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. (2)** Pre-Tender Meeting: **19.02.2026** at **11:30 a.m.** in the Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Amurthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru–560 092. **(3)** Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **26.02.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Technical bid: **27.02.2026** at **4:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, QA/QC Division, Zone-1, BNCC

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A ban buried in killer mines

In the death of at least 27 workers in an explosion at an illegal coal mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills, there is another reminder of the serious dangers these mines pose. Despite warnings being issued about the safety of workers involved in the operations, and official claims that steps are in place to prevent such mining practices, accidents continue to happen. At least nine people were killed in a mishap in Assam's Dima Hasao district last year. East Jaintia Hills have seen multiple accidents and deaths. Unregulated mining in these areas, called 'rat-hole mining', involves serious risks as it involves the extraction of coal in the most hazardous conditions. The mines are narrow pits in which only one person can go down. They come without stable roofs or side-wall protection. When they collapse, they bury people under them, making rescue operations arduous. Flooding of the mines has also aggravated some of the accidents.

Owners and operators of illegal mines have circumvented laws and procedures to establish what has evolved as a profitable business. Authorities who look the other way have facilitated a spread in operations – many mines are small enterprises scattered across the region. There is a network of operators who ensure that the coal mined in these regions is taken to the markets. Workers are typically not covered under social welfare or entitled to any benefits. Sometimes, it is not known how many workers are involved in accidents because formal records of the numbers employed are missing. Families do not often receive compensation in case of fatalities or debilitating accidents. Many of the accidents are not reported at all.

Illegal coal mining without safety mechanisms has continued due to weak enforcement and poor social conditions

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed a ban on rat-hole mining in 2014, citing safety risks and environmental damage. The Supreme Court upheld the ban, and a committee appointed by the Meghalaya High Court in 2022 pointed out the failures in implementing the ban. The local authorities have been less than enthusiastic about the ban. In 2015, the Meghalaya Assembly even requested the Centre to exempt the state from the purview of mining laws. The recurring accidents underline the need for uncompromised enforcement of the ban. Implementation has failed because of the high demand for coal, poverty in the region, and the nexus between the mine owners, operators, officials, and politicians. The judicial inquiry must lead to stringent action against those who violate the law. At a deeper level, measures should also be initiated towards alleviating poverty in the region and offering alternative means of livelihood to the workers.

Vendor livelihoods lost in transition

The ongoing eviction of street vendors in Bengaluru exposes a troubling collapse of governance, legality, and basic human sensitivity. What is being presented as an exercise in restoring urban order following the transition from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is, in reality, a violation of statutory protections and fundamental rights. An administrative move has morphed into a humanitarian crisis, with the city's most vulnerable workers paying the price for bureaucratic inertia. At the heart of the crisis is a legal vacuum deliberately allowed to persist. The transition has stalled the issuance of identity cards, while older BBMP-issued documents are being arbitrarily declared invalid. This has effectively criminalised survival. Vendors across neighbourhoods say their business hours are now consumed by fear of police harassment and eviction.

There is no denying that unregulated vending inconveniences pedestrians and adds to traffic congestion. However, these conflicts arise primarily from the State's abdication of its duty to demarcate and notify clear vending zones. Punishing vendors for the GBA's incompetence is neither fair nor lawful. The injustice is magnified by a disputed official survey that recognises only 27,000 vendors, while the unions place the number at over one lakh. If the civic body plans zones based on the lower figure, over 70,000 people will be rendered unauthorised, making them easy targets for permanent displacement. Women vendors face a particularly harsh impact, as this is often their sole source of income. A single eviction can wipe out days of earnings. Yet, disturbingly, both the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission and the State Women's Commission have remained complicitly silent. Their failure to take *suo motu* cognisance of a human rights violation has only emboldened administrative apathy.

Bengaluru's street vendors must not be made to pay the price for administrative incompetence

The law leaves no room for ambiguity. The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, prohibits eviction until a comprehensive survey is completed and vending certificates are issued. The Supreme Court has affirmed that street vending is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(g), recognising vendors as "assets of the city" rather than encroachers. Eviction without due process or proper rehabilitation is therefore unconstitutional. Order on the roads must be reclaimed, but not on the foundation of illegality and human suffering. The GBA must immediately halt evictions, recognise existing identity cards until new ones are issued, complete a genuine survey, and notify lawful vending zones. A city that prides itself on progress cannot abandon justice and compassion for the vulnerable population that sustains its informal economy.

AN UNEASY RESET

Can India's labour codes protect migrant workers?

In a push towards informality, they risk weakening oversight and provisions of recourse for the workers

ISHAAN BAMBA AND KUNAL MUNJAL

The newly enforced labour codes have left one of the largest segments of India's labour force, inter-state migrant workers, inadequately protected. Although the codes promise better safety and working conditions for workers, they do little to safeguard the inter-state migrant workers (hereafter ISMWs). ISMWs are one of the most at-risk groups and are highly susceptible to exploitation, and the Codes further weaken their bargaining power and dilute their protection mechanisms.

Their vulnerability was starkly visible during the COVID-19 lockdown, when lakhs of ISMWs walked back to their home states due to the precarious nature of their employment and lack of protection mechanisms in the labour laws. The labour law codification exercise was a crucial opportunity to course-correct this policy gap and better regulate their employment and working conditions. However, this 'footloose' workforce of India's economy is pushed further into informality, rendering them even more invisible.

The four labour codes were passed between 2019 and 2020, and enforced in November 2025. The response by stakeholders has been predictable. Business and industry associations have welcomed the increased flexibility in recruitment and employment. Trade unions, on the other hand, have opposed the reforms. They have been conducting nationwide protests, arguing that the Codes erode the rights of workers who will lose hard-won protections. The confrontation between a reformist move by the State and a dissenting labour movement is now public and escalating.

The regulation of employment and working conditions of ISMWs falls under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 ('Code'). ISMWs are heavily concentrated in unregulated and informal ones, such as construction, brick kilns, small manufacturing units, and urban services. Work in these sectors is precarious, hazardous, and relies heavily on coercive and unfree labour practices. The thin line between safe and unsafe migration exposes them to trafficking and bondage.

The government's claim that the labour codes expand coverage for workers must therefore be tested against a fundamental question: do they meaningfully protect this vulnerable workforce?

Before the Codes, the only law that regulated the employment and working conditions of ISMWs was the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 ('Act'). However, it remained a dead letter ever since. Stakeholders, as well as the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, lamented its ineffectiveness, citing negligible registration and lack of enforcement. Clearly, a reform was long overdue.

Unlike the Act, which covered only

ISMWs recruited through licensed contractors, the OSH Code, into which the Act is subsumed, broadens the definition of an inter-state migrant worker by including those who migrate by themselves. However, this expanded definition may not lead to wider applicability.

The Act applied to establishments employing five or more ISMWs. The Code raises this threshold to ten or more. This change has serious consequences. Most worksites employing ISMWs (for instance, brick kilns, small construction units, textile workshops, food-processing units) employ fewer than ten of them. More than 98.4% of establishments in the non-agricultural sector employ less than 10 workers as per the Sixth Economic Census (2016). This statistic includes all kinds of workers, not just ISMWs. The proportion of establishments employing ten or more ISMWs is therefore a minuscule fraction of those establishments that employ 10 workers of any category. In reality, well over 99% of non-agricultural establishments fall outside the Code's purview.

Reform without regulation

The accountability of the State to protect ISMWs has been diluted in three ways. First, while contractors remain central to labour recruitment, their licensing regime has been substantially weakened. Under the Act, contractors were required to disclose detailed information in their licences about workers, including wages, hours of work, and terms of employment. The OSH Code, however, requires only the number of migrant workers employed to be disclosed, and allows temporary, work-specific licences with minimal scrutiny. This dilution reduces transparency, weakens regulation, and makes it harder for workers to establish exploitation or hold intermediaries accountable.

Second, the OSH Code removes the worker passbook, a mandatory requirement under the Act. As a tool of practical accountability, the passbook recorded the employer's name, wage rate, and duration of employment, and was the only documentary proof available to migrant workers facing wage theft or disputes. In a labour market with hardly any written contracts and limited legal recourse, the elimination of this record further weakens the bargaining power of ISMWs.

Third, the nature of inspections has been fundamentally altered. The Act empowered inspectors to examine whether any establishment had employed ISMWs and enforce migrant-specific protections. The OSH Code omits such targeted powers. This changing nature of inspections risks leaving ISMWs at worksites with even less oversight.

During the peak of the COVID lockdown-led mobility crisis, faced by lakhs of migrant workers, we were confronted with the reality of their foundational importance in our economy and society. There has clearly been a lack of regulation of work and employment for the migrant workers in the policies by the government.

Any new labour law regime that fails to learn that lesson risks repeating history.

The government argues that this shift in regulation will boost investment and employment. But ease of doing business must not come at the expense of workers. The labour law regime is shifting from protection to facilitation, whittling away important regulatory checks for migrant workers. Rather than formalising informal work, they risk informalising what little protection previously existed.

The success of these reforms will be measured by whether the migrant workers who build India's cities, industries, and infrastructure can work with security, safety, and recourse. India's labour law reform will remain incomplete if migrant workers are left unprotected.

(Ishaan is a senior resident fellow with Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy; Kunal is a PhD Scholar at ISI-Bangalore and IIT-Hyderabad)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Capt Poly and the 'money bag'

Remembering the man whose long walks stretched from Rashtrapati Bhavan to Tata Steel

ASOK SHANTHA KUMAR

I joined Tata Steel in December 1960 and, through my batchmate and dear friend Russi Dastur, became familiar with the Parsi community and made many friends. Among my closest friends was Capt Palamkote (retd.) of the Indian Army.

We worked together for the upcoming School of Hope for the specially abled. He never missed a meeting and was always punctual for functions and meetings. He also worked with me for other organisations focused on the education of underprivileged children, and he was generous in contributing only to such causes.

Many in Tata Steel may not have known about this hidden empathy he had for the downtrodden. They will remember him instead for his walking tirelessly, even when he was over 70 years old. They were also careful to keep a safe distance from him, to avoid his fiery slang and, at times, not-so-decent English words.

Yes, he had no mother tongue as such, but he had his own special tongue—one inherited from his long service in the British Indian Army. I was comfortable with his slang; I used similar words myself in selective company. Two of my siblings were Air Force officers, and perhaps I picked it up from them.

My dear friend "Poly", as he was affectionately known, joined Tata Steel after the age of 60—an age at which others were retiring. He was employed because of his unique ability to walk endlessly through the steel plant and advise management on better utilisation of scrap. I don't know how he did it, but despite a small limp caused by an injury during his army service, he would walk tirelessly even in severe summer heat. He had many stories to share, and I recount one of them.

He became the ADC to Babu Rajendra Prasad, the first president of India, in the early 1950s and served until his retirement. He said serving the president was like serving one's own senior family member. The president was unassuming and kind to all—subordinates and staff alike, irrespective of status or gender.

Once, at around 11 am, the president was in his office going through some papers, while Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel and other ministers were in a closed-door meeting elsewhere in Rashtrapati Bhavan. Poly was standing on the first-floor balcony, admiring the view of the Moghul Garden, when the telephone rang. A lady asked who was speaking. He replied, "I am Capt Palamkote, ADC to the President."

Realising from his name that he was a Parsi, she spoke courteously in Gujarati and said, "Please go to Room No 7 and tell Pandit Nehru—money bag." Poly assumed it was a prank and ignored it. When the call came again, he nervously told the president. Rajendra Prasad said, "Go immediately and convey it to the prime minister."

Poly knocked on Room No 7 and said, "Sir, Money bag." Pandit Nehru immediately replied, "The meeting is over. Sardar, you must take your diabetic medicine. Your daughter Maniben has called." Such was the concern among colleagues.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fare game: Who's calling the shots?

The temporary pause on the Namma Metro fare hike offers commuters short-term relief but exposes deeper governance confusion between the Centre, the State, and BMRCL. Public transport cannot be run like a political tug-of-war. Sudden fare revisions, opaque calculations, and post-announcement reversals damage public trust far more than modest, well-explained hikes. If Bengaluru wants to encourage citizens to use public transport, metro fares must be predictable, transparent, and socially sensitive – not reactionary. Transport policy cannot be crowd-controlled through press conferences. The real question remains: who is accountable when public transport planning fails the public?
Devank Maheswari, Bengaluru

Practise, don't preach

Apropos 'Infiltration, conversions skew population: Bhagwat' (Feb 9), RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat's comments on infiltration and conversions have sparked debate. However, his stance on retirement at 75 seems inconsistent, given his own continuation in office. If he believes in this principle, he should set an example by stepping down, allowing others, including the prime minister, to follow.
M Basavaraj, Davanagere

Ensure public safety

The revelation that Bengaluru has 64 identified "deadly stretches" highlights the city's struggle with traffic chaos. While identifying accident-prone zones is a first step, it is troubling that many remain dangerous despite repeated fatalities. Poor lighting, lack of pedestrian segregation, and unscientific road design point to systemic neglect. Corrective action must be time-bound, transparent, and prioritised as a public safety emergency.
Sruti Bera, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Yeh jo ladki (former CM Rabri Devi) *hai, kabhi kuch kaam ki hai*? (This girl...Has she ever done any work?) It was only when we took over in 2005, Bihar was put back on the road to development.
Nitish Kumar, Bihar CM

Authority that needs to belittle has already begun to fail.
Hannah Arendt

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

The Budget and the climate blind spot

Critical gaps in the Union Budget leave India's growth ambitions out of sync with its climate realities

INDU MURTHY

The Union Budget 2026-27 invokes resilience and sustainability largely through sectoral priorities such as agriculture, infrastructure, and urban growth, without distinctly articulating resilience and adaptation. What was notably missing was a dedicated focus and budget allocation for resilience building and adaptation, despite India having prepared a National Adaptation Plan. This omission seems starker given that the Economic Survey explicitly recognised rising temperatures, water stress, biodiversity loss, and land degradation as threats to productivity, food security, and infrastructure sustainability.

The Budget has outlaid Rs 12.2 lakh crore in public capital expenditure towards inland waterways, highways, freight corridors, and railways; urban infrastructure, including transport and power; industrial and logistical infrastructure encompassing MSME clusters, data centres, and industrial corridors; and health and education infrastructure. While these investments will shape India's economy over the coming decades, they are at risk from a changing climate that is becoming a lived reality, including extreme heat and rainfall, as well as sea level rise. The Budget does not mandate climate proofing of these assets with a 30-50-year lifespan, risking investment and growth derailment.

Ecological initiatives, such as mountain trails, turtle trails, and bird corridors, are budgeted to add value to local economies and serve as tourism assets. But the need to conserve and promote ecosystems as protective infrastructure remains under-emphasised. This lack of focus on climate-buffering measures, such as watershed management, mangrove restoration, and blue-green infrastructure in cities, underscores a gap in the understanding and financing of climate resilience.

The strong focus on income enhancement is evident in the budgetary support for high-value crops and fisheries, as well as the introduction of an artificial intelligence (AI)-based agri-stack for advisory services. Bharat-VISTAAR, a flagship initiative announced in the Budget, is a multilingual AI tool aimed at enhancing productivity and income through value-chain integration. However, the uncertainty posed by climate variability and extreme events, which determines what can be grown, where, and when and undermines productivity, remains unaddressed. Also missing are investments for landscape-level adaptation, such as groundwater recharge or soil moisture conservation.

Cities have been positioned as engines of growth, with the introduction of the City Economic Regions (CER) strategy and an allocation of Rs 5,000 crore per CER over five years. Furthermore, the Rs-1,00,000 crore Urban Challenge Fund is intended to leverage public, private, and bond financing for urban green initiatives. A transition from a vehicle-centric to a people-centric focus in the Budget is evident from the references to subsidised public transport and pedestrian-friendly city planning. However, there are no binding requirements for heat action plans, climate-sensitive urban designs, and flood-resilient land zoning.

Major budgetary allocations made for critical minerals, carbon capture, utilisation, and storage, nuclear power, and battery storage strengthen energy security, but are clearly industry-led and mitigation-focused. What is lacking is a focus on making power grids resilient to rising cooling demands driven by the increasing magnitude and duration of heatwaves, cyclones, and floods. With climate impacts causing sharp spikes in power demand and increasing power supply disruptions during extreme events, the absence of targeted investments in energy system resilience leaves the energy transition vulnerable.

Climate resilience requires predictable, equitable, and pre-emptive fiscal transfers that enable states and cities to plan and invest ahead of climate shocks. While the Budget's challenge-based financing might offer motivation, it inadvertently favours states that are challenge-ready with higher capacity and progressive governance. This risks excluding states that may be at high climate risk but have weak institutional mechanisms.

Missed opportunities

Aligning the Budget along the path chartered by the Economic Survey could have placed climate adaptation at the core of India's development strategy. Mandating climate risk assessment for all large public capital expenditure would have helped ensure they remain fit for today and a warmer, wetter future. Also, a more nuanced approach to disaster finance, focusing on preparedness and resilient construction alongside relief, could have strengthened long-term climate readiness. Above all, internalising climate stresses and compounding risks acknowledged by the Economic Survey would have supported better outcomes for health and productivity. These critical gaps fail to align the country's growth ambitions with the lived realities of a warming India.

That said, the Budget is to be seen as the starting point rather than the end point. As climate risks increasingly shape lives, livelihoods, and economic outcomes, future action will hinge on clear policy intent and sustained investment in climate-resilient development. Recalibration in the future offers an opportunity for the systemic integration of resilience and adaptation into India's developmental pathway.

(The writer leads the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector at the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy [CSTEP], a research-based think tank)

First step against menstrual poverty: The right to menstrual health

BHANU TANWAR

In her satirical essay *If Men Could Menstruate*, Gloria Steinem examined the intersection of social power and biological functions by imagining a world in which men menstruate instead of women. She argued menstruation would then be celebrated as a marker of masculinity and superiority and would likely even attract federal funding for free distribution of sanitary products. This thought experiment prompts reflection on a world in which cisgendered men also menstruate. In such a world, menstruation would likely be recognised for what it inherently is—a routine biological process—much like eating, digestion and excretion.

According to UNICEF, approximately 1.8 billion people menstruate globally every month, including not only girls and women but also transgender men and non-binary individuals. Yet, many menstruating persons are unable to manage their menstrual cycle in a dignified and healthy manner. Despite being a normal biological function, menstruation remains one of the most stigmatised biological processes, deeply entwined with taboos, notions of impurity and social exclusion.

This stigma has far-reaching implications, affecting access to education, healthcare and participation in public life. In many communities, menstruating individuals are excluded from social and religious spaces, while widespread ignorance about menstrual health perpetuates misinformation, silence and shame. The lack of affordable menstrual products, adequate sanitation facilities, and menstrual awareness further exacerbates these challenges, particularly for those living in poverty or in marginalised communities. As a result, menstruation in the real world is not merely a biological experience but a persistent lived challenge.

In January 2026, the Supreme Court, while recognising the reality of 'menstrual poverty' and associated humiliation, held that the right to menstrual health and access to menstrual hygiene management (MHM) are integral to the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Court approached the issue from two interrelated perspectives.

First, it examined the right to education as a fundamental human right, as enshrined under Article 26 of the UDHR and Article 13 of ICESCR, and traced its evolution within the Indian constitutional jurisprudence. The Court emphasised that the right to education flows from the broader right to live with dignity, which is intrinsic to the right to life. Importantly, it clarified that the right to education shouldn't be limited to the mere physical existence of schools; rather, it extends to a child's ability to participate in education meaningfully and without discrimination. Adopting a substantive equality framework, the Court underscored the State's obligations to remove barriers that prevent children from enjoying this right on an equal footing. In this context, the Court recognised that stigma, stereotyping and humiliation surrounding menstruation compel girls to manage their bodies according to circumstance rather than choice, thereby severely restricting their bodily autonomy, privacy and dignity.

Second, the Court affirmed that the right to menstrual health flows from the broader right to health, which Indian courts have consistently recognised as under Article 21. Consequently, the State bears a positive obligation to respect, protect and fulfil this right.

To operationalise these guarantees, the Court directed all States and Union Territories to ensure that every school—government-run or privately managed, in both urban and rural areas—is equipped with functional gender-segregated toilets with running water; private, accessible and disability-friendly toilets; adequate handwashing facilities; free biodegradable ASTM D-6954-compliant sanitary napkins; spare innerwear, uniform and disposal bags; safe disposal mechanisms; and comprehensive menstrual health awareness programmes.

Menstrual poverty remains a lived reality for many in India. Under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, sanitary napkin vending machines have been installed in schools in states such as Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, and the Union Territories of Leh and Ladakh, enabling girls to purchase sanitary products. Several states, including Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, have schemes providing free sanitary napkins to school-going girls. However, most of the schemes are either school-centric and/or require payment to be made for purchasing sanitary products.

Biodegradable sanitary pads are available at Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAK) for the larger community at a subsidised rate of Re 1 per pad. Given that an average menstruating person may require 10–25 pads per month, issues of affordability and accessibility persist. These products are on a payment basis, and JAKs are predominantly located in urban areas, limiting access for rural populations. Consequently, a 16-year-old menstruating girl, or a 30-year-old non-earning female living in a rural area and not attending school, is unlikely to have reliable access to sanitary products, forcing them to rely on secretive and unhygienic methods of menstrual management.

While the judgment marks a transformative step towards social justice, it also prompts a broader reflection on menstrual poverty and advances the discourse towards the recognising of the right to menstrual health for a wider spectrum of menstruating individuals. Addressing this issue effectively requires expanding the conversation beyond schools and classrooms to include all menstruating individuals—cisgender women, transgender men, girls, and older women, school-going or not.

It is important to note that not every human being menstruates; however, menstrual health initiatives must recognise and include all individuals who menstruate, regardless of gender identity, age, or social circumstances.

(The writer is Assistant Professor of Law and Co-Director, Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics at National Law School of India University, Bengaluru)

The country's cities have been spared the violence of a hard-fought civil war. But as the economy has hollowed out, many urbanites have become desperate

RICHARD C PADDOCK

The downtown of Yangon, Myanmar's largest city. Urban areas in the country have been plagued by issues like soaring inflation, high unemployment and shortages of goods. NYT

Five years after Myanmar coup, 'even hope has become a risk'

After a landmark election ended half a century of military rule in her country, the university lecturer believed education was the key to its future. She felt proud to help shape the next generation. But five years ago this month, the generals again usurped power.

Now Myanmar's university system is in shambles. The lecturer, Zar Chi Nway, makes her living by crocheting clothes, small figures and bags to sell online.

"This is what post-coup Myanmar has done to us," said Zar Chi Nway, 37, who once taught philosophy at the prestigious Mandalay University. "It not only took our jobs, it took our identities."

As civil war rages between the military and pro-democracy forces in much of rural Myanmar, residents of the country's urban core have largely escaped the violence. But they have been plagued by soaring inflation, high unemployment, shortages of goods, daily blackouts and a crippled health care system.

In neighbourhoods where troops crushed protests five years ago by shooting demonstrators in the head, residents now focus on surviving day by day. Drug use, HIV, street muggings and suicide are all on the rise, according to former officials who worked for the ousted government. Among the city's poorest, old women and young children beg in the streets. Hidden from view, many women resort to prostitution.

Five years of military rule has isolated Myanmar from much of the world. It ranks as one of Asia's poorest and least-educated nations. Nearly half of Myanmar's population was living below the national poverty line by the end of 2023, according to a United Nations report, *A Disappearing Middle Class*.

"The future of our country and the future of our young people have been completely crushed under military boots," said Yar Zar, a former DJ who spent three years in prison for protesting the junta takeover. "Before the coup, Myanmar was a country full of promise and a joyful place to live. Now, it has become the exact opposite."

A former British colony, Myanmar gained independence in 1948, but the army has run the country for most of its existence.

In 2010, the ruling generals decided to open the country and, in a scenario similar to today, held elections in a bid for legitimacy. Opposition parties boycotted that vote, and a military-backed party won easily.

But in a surprising turn, the new government headed by President Thein Sein, a former general, permitted the proliferation of cellphones, let foreign journalists enter the country and held free elections in 2015. When the opposition National League for Democracy won in a landslide, he handed over power peacefully.

All of this was too much liberalisation for the remaining generals. And after the pro-democracy party won again in 2020, they seized power on February 1, 2021, and arrested many of the newly elected leaders, most of whom remain in prison today.

As part of its effort to turn back the clock, the regime now systematically disrupts cellphone communications, including social media and messaging apps, and requires that SIM cards be registered with authorities. Virtual private networks, or VPNs, used to bypass the restrictions are outlawed. In December and January, the junta staged elections in which opposition parties were banned and only residents in military-controlled areas could vote. As expected, the military-backed party won again. "The whole reason for the coup and this election is that they see things went wrong under President Thein Sein," said Richard Horsey, a longtime political analyst who lived for many years in Yangon. "This election is about rerunning the process and fixing Thein Sein's mistake."

Myanmar's people have paid a huge price for the military's course correction.

Unable to defeat rebel forces made up of ethnic and pro-democracy armies, the junta dispatches fighter jets acquired from Russia and China to bomb civilian targets, including hospitals, schools and temples.

With a boost from China, the military gained ground last year against some rebel forces, including wresting control of the important mining city of Mogok, renowned for its rubies and sapphires.

By conservative estimates, more than 7,700 civilians have been killed since the military takeover. According to the United Nations, more than 3.6 million have been displaced within the country and 1.6 million more have fled the country, including many young men who fear conscription into the army.

Many of the displaced have moved to the safety of the two largest cities, Yangon and Mandalay, increasing problems of overcrowding. Even for those not directly affected by the fighting, life under military rule has been grim.

As a teenager, Yin Min Nwe found work before the coup at one of Yangon's many garment factories. It gave her hope that she could make a future for herself.

"Myanmar felt full of energy and possibility," she said. "Young people were optimistic, businesses were growing, and there was a strong sense that the country was slowly moving forward." But soon after, in part because of international sanctions, the garment industry collapsed. She was one of hundreds of thousands of workers—mostly women—who lost their jobs.

"Everything changed overnight," said Yin Min New, now 22. "Fear replaced optimism. People no longer talk about future plans, only about survival. What remains is a country living under constant fear, where even hope has become a risk."

Thousands of checkpoints have been set up on the main highways and on city streets, where soldiers stop travellers and demand identification. People trying to leave the country can be blocked from boarding flights even when they have a valid passport.

Overnight curfews imposed for nearly five years on Yangon and Mandalay were lifted only weeks before the election.

Corruption has become widespread as the police and soldiers demand bribes to avoid arrest over minor infractions and serious crimes, many residents say.

The military has targeted doctors and other medical workers, seen as leaders of the opposition movement, arresting more than 900 and killing 168, according to Insecurity Insight, which tracks attacks on health workers.

Prescription drugs have become increasingly difficult to find, which can mean death for patients who are chronically ill, said Kyaw Zin, a medical doctor who owns a drugstore in Mandalay. Running a pharmacy does not mean saving lives, he said. It means constantly telling people why the drugs they need are not on his shelves.

"Five years after the coup, I no longer feel like a doctor who heals," he said. "I feel like a witness to slow, preventable deaths."

Unlike other Southeast Asian cities, where construction projects have picked up since the pandemic, Yangon has stagnated, its skyline largely unchanged.

One notable exception is a new bridge over the Yangon River that connects the city to the suburb of Dala. But a mile away stands the hulking ruin of Yoma Central, a large real estate project that has stood unfinished since 2021.

Meanwhile, barbed-wire barricades have sprouted outside police stations and other key buildings. At one police station in downtown Yangon, police officers in camouflage uniforms sat on plastic chairs behind the barricades with automatic rifles on their laps. Above the entrance was a welcome from an earlier era: "MAY I HELP YOU."

The New York Times

Reclaiming Bengaluru from its road to rage

DALHIA MANI

Bengaluru used to feel like a slice of heaven—and in many ways, it still does. A benign climate, abundant opportunities, an ease for dual-career couples, first access to entrepreneurial ideas, parks everywhere, and a culture of simple living and high thinking. Even Bengaluru's millionaires are unassuming and generous. Like all great cities, Bengaluru's finest feature remains its people. There have been countless instances when native Bengalureans have switched to my mother tongue on hearing my valiant but clumsy Kannada—a quiet kindness I've come to associate with this city.

But that grace is fading, and nowhere is this more visible than on the roads. This is not merely about potholes, unmarked speed breakers, construction debris and materials spilling onto streets, or the stray barricades dropped on a busy lane—though none of these help.

The deeper problem is a steady slide into needless, unthinking aggression.

Drivers rear-end others and insist it is not their fault; barrel down one-ways in the wrong direction while flashing abuse; double-park, blind oncoming traffic with high beams, and honk incessantly—all without the faintest sense that they are inconveniencing and endangering everyone, themselves included. Small gestures that keep a society sane—a quick thank-you for letting someone change lanes or making way for another car on a narrow street—are vanishing.

This spiral must be arrested before the city is swallowed by rage. Many factors are at play, but one structural reason stands out. It is an open secret that driving instructors often take the test on behalf of learners. The result is a city full of licensed drivers who have never actually taken a driving test, do not understand blind spots, and cannot see why parking at an intersection endangers everyone.

The most obvious fix would be to make everyone retake the written driver's test. But adding yet another bureaucratic hoop to a long-suffering city is cruel. Besides, if such an initiative were ever introduced, it would likely end with people staring helplessly at a frozen government website flashing "Server error 4690" no matter what we type, until we give up and pay a broker to "help us get the certificate"--which is exactly how we got here in the first place.

So, in true Bengaluru style, let us tackle a public problem with a private solution—by starting with ourselves. Here's a simple 15-question test to help reflect honestly on whether we might be part of the problem. A brief self test:

Have you ever—

- Rear-ended someone and then argued loudly that it is their fault?
- Parked more than a foot away from the kerb?
- Parked within five feet of an intersection?
- Double-parked?
- Left the hazard lights on to justify some illegal parking activity?
- Argued with a traffic police officer who is trying to fine you for something illegal that you have done?
- Gone, even a foot, the wrong way on a one-way?
- Changed lanes without checking your blind spot?
- Driven through a red light, treating it as a friendly suggestion rather than a strict rule?
- Honked more than five times in any 60-second window?
- Driven at night with a full beam on a fully lit city street?
- Started a roadside argument and then insisted that they speak in Hindi?
- Blocked a full lane of traffic due to your actions?
- Believed it is a status symbol if a child drives the family car?
- Paid someone to help your child pass the driving test?

Scoring:

- If you have answered 'Yes' to more than four of these questions, you are a menace to society. Please relocate to a place without roads or vehicles. Society is not suitable for you.
- If you have answered 'Yes' to two to four of these questions, you are part of the problem—but there is still hope. Watch a few videos on basic driving rules, take a mock written test, and return as a roadworthy human being.
- All others: You have stayed true despite much aggravation and idiocy all around you. Give yourself a pat. You are one of the good guys.

(The writer is a professor of entrepreneurship at IIM Bangalore)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 1976

Hua's elevation denotes power struggle

Singapore, February 9
The elevation of a little-known Public Security Minister Hua Kuo-feng as China's acting Prime Minister underlines the complexity the outside world faces in interpreting events in China. The universal expectation that the post would automatically go to senior Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping who had been groomed to take over from the ailing Mr. Chou En-lai has been proved wrong. Reports that Chairman Mao himself intervened to have Mr. Hua appointed as acting Premier is perhaps a reflection of the intense power struggle in China.

25 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 2001

PM, Farooq evolve strategy to prevent migration of Sikhs

New Delhi, Feb 9
Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today thrashed out a two-pronged strategy to instil confidence among Sikhs in the Kashmir valley in order to prevent threatened migration by the minority community from there and appointed a three- member team to implement the strategy. The strategy provides immediate enhancement of security measures to Sikh settlements and employment to Sikh youths in the valley.

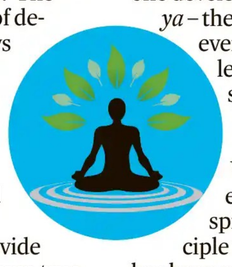
OASIS | PRASANNA S HARIHAR

The path from ignorance to bliss

Darkness exists due to the absence of light. Cold exists due to the absence of heat. Each face of a coin exists only because of the other side. Sadness exists due to the absence of happiness. But then *shastras* have clearly stated that our true existence is happiness – *Sat-Chit-Ananda Swaroopa*. Then why is happiness elusive?

We always go in search of moments that can bring us happiness. The very same argument brings back sadness the instant happiness starts to fade away. Do we agree then that the trick is to stay in one state always? What is that state – is it happiness?

Our experience abounds that sadness is detested, whereas everyone embraces happiness, preferably the happiness that lasts forever. The novelty factor of an object of desire starts to fade as the days pass. The never-ending search for happiness starts all over again where the mind hankers to find and possess the next object of desire. Where can one find everlasting happiness?



It is our *shastras* that provide a roadmap to discover our own true Self by the process of inquiry. This is best illustrated by asking the million-dollar question – Who Am I? Because we have attached greater importance to everything else in the objective world. The moment one develops detachment – *vairagya* – the importance and value of everything else diminishes, leaving our own true self standing alone, shining bright.

How do we know this? While it is clearly illustrated in our *shastras*, the true spiritual guru guides the disciple to unearth the shine which has been covered with ignorance that exists only due to the absence of knowledge. This comes to our experience during deep sleep; when we wake up, we feel blissful after a good night's sleep.

Why does this come to our experience daily after waking up from a deep sleep?

Once we go to sleep, the sense organs become inactive and the objective world becomes quiescent. The absence of the outside world has taken duality away from our experience. A duality that is only superimposed on our true self.

What do we need to remove to experience blissful unending happiness? The answer is not to attach reality to the duality experienced in the waking state, where the feed from the sense organs is discerned by the intellect as mere projections.

Top court upholds Madras HC ban on animal sacrifice near shrine

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday upheld a Madras High Court order that prohibited animal sacrifice and granted Muslim devotees limited rights to prayers over a dargah on the Thiruparankundram hills in Tamil Nadu's Madurai.

A bench declined to interfere with the October 2025 HC order, finding it a balanced one.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner M Imam Hussain, said there had never been a law-and-order problem in the area, to which the apex court bench said that there would not have been a peace committee meeting in the absence of such a problem.

The petitioner contended the HC order was arbitrary and contrary to Article 25 of the Constitution.

The bench, however, said, "It seems to be a very balanced order. We do not propose to interfere with the order. Without expressing any opinion on the rights of the parties, the impugned order stands upheld."

The HC had permitted prayers and gatherings in the Nellithoppu area during Bakrid and Ramzan, subject to the condition that they did not affect the traditional footsteps belonging to the Subramaniya Swamy temple.

It had, however, said that animal sacrifice and cooking, carrying, and serving of non-vegetarian food could not be permitted until a decision was made by the competent civil court. The HC had previously allowed the lighting of a lamp at a ceremonial lamp pillar.

SC sets aside order for Rs 2 cr compensation for faulty haircut

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court has set aside a National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) order that awarded Rs 2 crore to a woman model over an allegedly faulty haircut at the ITC Maurya hotel's beauty salon in April 2018, which she claimed damaged her job opportunities and assignments.

Emphasising that damages could not be awarded merely on presumptions or whims and fancies of the complainant, a bench of Justices Rajesh Bindal and Manmohan partly allowed an appeal filed by ITC Limited against the NCRDC's April 25, 2024, order, which granted huge compensation to respondent Aashna Roy.

The SC, in its February 6 judgment, held that the commission had erred in awarding the huge amount of compensation, which it said could not be justified.

The court found that whatever documents the respondent model produced along with her affidavit in support of her allegations were photocopies.

"To make out a case for award of damages, especially when the claim is to the tune of crores of rupees, some trustworthy and reliable evidence has to be led," it said.

It underscored that this was not a case where the commission was considering a small issue where compensation could be awarded by applying a thumb rule.

The court modified the order by directing that the respondent would be entitled to compensation of Rs 25 lakh, an amount deposited by ITC in the previous round of litigation.

'Absolute robbery': SC directs Centre to frame SoP on digital frauds

Flags Rs 54k-cr cyber loot, stresses timely action by RBI

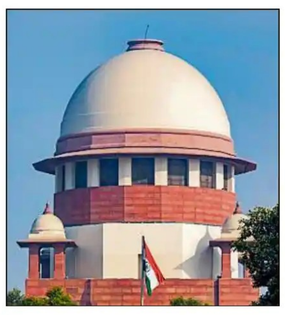
ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Terming the diversion of over Rs 54,000 crore through digital frauds "absolute robbery or dacoity", the Supreme Court on Monday directed the Centre to frame a standard operating procedure (SoP) in consultation with stakeholders such as the RBI, banks and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to deal with such cases.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and NV Anjaria said that the amount lost to digital fraud exceeded the budgets of many smaller states.

Noting that such offences may be due to either collusion or negligence by bank officials, the court stressed the need for timely action from the RBI and banks.

In a set of fresh directions, the SC asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to examine the SoP of the RBI and similar guidelines of the DoT, and to prepare a draft MoU within four weeks to effectively deal with such offences.



ACTION PLAN

- Centre ordered to frame SoP with RBI, banks, DoT
- Fraud losses exceed budgets of smaller states, says SC
- Court cites collusion/ negligence of bank officials

The bench also noted that the RBI has framed an SoP requiring banks to temporarily block debit cards to prevent cyber-enabled fraud.

The court directed the CBI to identify "digital arrest" cases and asked the Gujarat and Delhi governments to grant sanction to the agency to proceed with investigations in the identified cases.

The court also asked the RBI, the DoT and other stakeholders to jointly hold a meeting to devise a framework for compensating victims of digital arrest cases. It said a pragmatic and liberal approach was needed in awarding compensation, and posted the matter for further hearing after four weeks.

The bench directed the authorities to file fresh status reports before the next hearing.

On December 16, the court had asked the Centre to examine suggestions put forward by the amicus curiae on ensuring compensation for victims of digital arrests, while expressing concern over the enormous sums siphoned out of the country by cybercriminals.

In "digital arrests", unsuspecting citizens are duped of their money by fraudsters posing as judicial or law enforcement authorities.

On October 17, 2025, the SC took suo motu cognisance of the rising incidents of online fraud in the country, particularly digital arrests.

National interest guiding factor for oil imports: Misri

NEW DELHI, PTI

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

India will maintain multiple sources for crude oil purchases and diversify them to ensure stability in the supply chain with national interests remaining the "guiding factor" for the procurement, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Monday amid a swirling controversy over Washington's claim that New Delhi has agreed to stop importing Russian oil.

It was New Delhi's first clear articulation of its position on the issue after US President Donald Trump rolled back punitive 25% tariffs on Indian goods on the condition that New Delhi will discontinue buying Russian oil.

Misri said the key drivers of the procurement policy are adequate availability, fair pricing, and reliability of supply, remarks seen as an indication that New Delhi is unlikely to snap its energy ties with Moscow. "National interests will be the guiding factor for us in our choices for energy procurement," he said.

The foreign secretary said India's "foremost priority" is to safeguard the interests of Indian consumers and to really ensure that they receive adequate energy at the right price and through reliable and secure supplies.

"Our import policy insofar as energy is concerned is therefore driven entirely by these objectives," he said at a press conference while replying to a question on whether India will stop buying Russian crude oil.

"We are neither dependent on any single source for this, nor do we intend to be. And it is natural for the mix of sources to vary from time to time, depending on objective market conditions," he said.

"Our approach is to maintain multiple sources of supply and diversify them as appropriate to ensure stability. Therefore, I would say that the more diversified we are in this area, the more secure we are," he said.

PM Modi unveils $175-million economic package for Seychelles

Assistance to help projects in areas like health, defence & maritime security

NEW DELHI, PTI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Minister for Health of Seychelles Marvin Fanny exchange documents during a joint press statement after a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Seychelles Patrick Herminie, in New Delhi, on Monday. PTI

India on Monday announced $175 million as development assistance to Seychelles after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with the island nation's President Patrick Herminie that produced a joint vision for deeper two-way engagement.

Following the Modi-Herminie meeting, the two sides inked seven agreements to boost ties in a range of areas, including digital solutions, exports and data sharing, and conduct of maritime scientific research.

India and Seychelles also agreed on a broad vision to expand cooperation in areas of sustainability, trade and economy, and security.

"Today's meeting makes it clear that the India-Seychelles partnership is entering a new phase," PM Modi said.

Herminie is on a six-day visit to India. Seychelles is a key maritime neighbour for India in the Indian Ocean region.

"India and Seychelles share a relationship that extends far beyond diplomatic engagement. The waves of the Indian Ocean have connected our peoples for centuries," Modi said. In the talks, both leaders agreed to step up bilateral cooperation in the field of hydrography to support Seychelles' efforts in accelerating its blue economy growth.

Elaborating on the deep-rooted bilateral ties, Modi said India and Seychelles are connected not "just by geography, but by history, trust and a shared vision for the future."

"Our bond spans the past, the present, and the future. As a maritime neighbour and a trusted partner, Seychelles is an integral part of India's MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) Vision. Our cooperation encompasses the maritime, land, and air domains," he said.

"In today's discussions, we charted a path to further strengthen this partnership. We agreed to continue exploring new opportunities to deepen our economic cooperation," he said.

The prime minister said development partnership has been a strong pillar of India-Seychelles relations and that New Delhi's efforts have been guided by the priorities and requirements of the island nation.

"Building on this direction, today we are announcing a Special Economic Package of $175 mn," Modi said. This package will support concrete projects in areas such as social housing, e-mobility, vocational training, health, defence, and maritime security, he said.

SC declines relief to Kuldeep Sengar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain a plea by former Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA and expelled party leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar seeking suspension of sentence in a case related to the custodial death of the Unnao rape survivor's father, but directed the Delhi High Court to hear his pending criminal appeal on an out-of-turn, day-to-day basis.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant observed that even Mumbai terror attack convict Ajmal Kasab, who brutally attacked the sovereignty of the country, was provided a fair trial under India's rule of law.

Sengar had challenged the Delhi High Court's January 19 order refusing to suspend his sentence in the custodial death case.

The Supreme Court said it would not interfere at this stage and would instead request the high court to take up the appeal expeditiously, preferably within three months.

ED sets up SIT to probe cases against Anil Ambani group

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Enforcement Directorate has constituted a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the alleged banking and corporate fraud worth Rs 40,000 crore involving the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) and linked entities, official sources said on Monday.

Anil Ambani

The SIT is led by an additional director-rank officer in the headquarters investigation unit (HIU) of the federal probe agency and comprises about half a dozen other investigators, the sources said.

The Supreme Court, while reviewing cases against ADAG, last week directed the ED to constitute an SIT that will undertake a "fair, independent, prompt, and dispassionate" probe into the case.

It had asked the CBI, which is also probing the group, to look into the nexus, collusion, connivance, and conspiracy, if any, and take its investigations to their logical conclusion.

The ED has been probing Anil Ambani and his Reliance Group companies since last year and has, till now, filed three Enforcement Case Information Reports (ECIRs)—ED equivalent of police FIRs—under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), apart from attaching assets worth Rs 12,000 crore.

The SIT may file more ECIRs to go into the alleged illegalities and dubious financial transactions done by the ADAG group companies and their executives, the sources said.

SPEED, PRIVILEGE AND UNACCOUNTABILITY

The Kanpur Lamborghini crash, involving a tobacco businessman's son, has sparked outrage over perceived elite impunity and renewed focus on reckless driving by luxury car owners.

The incident occurred on Sunday in Kanpur's Gwaltoli area when the sports car lost control and hit pedestrians, two-wheelers and an autorickshaw, injuring at least six people. Police said Shivam Mishra, son of Banshidhar Exports owner K K Mishra, is not named in the FIR but is part of the investigation.

People gather around a Lamborghini which collided with a rickshaw, injuring three people, in Kanpur.

The case has once again highlighted a pattern of high-profile crashes involving speeding luxury vehicles across India in recent years.

New Delhi (2025)
Drunk Audi driver ran over five people sleeping on a footpath in Vasant Vihar, injuring them; booked for rash driving.

Noida (2025)
Lamborghini hit two labourers on a footpath in Sector 94; driver arrested.

Pune (2024)
Speeding Porsche, allegedly driven by a minor, killed two IT professionals in Kalyani Nagar; accused to be tried as adult.

Noida (2024) BMW rammed into an e-rickshaw, killing two and injuring three; occupants arrested.	**Noida (2024, January)** BMW hit pedestrians in Sector 53, killing one and injuring another; driver arrested.	**Ahmedabad (2023)** Speeding Jaguar mowed down a crowd on ISKCON Bridge, killing nine; driver booked for culpable homicide.	**Nuh (2023)** Rolls-Royce hit a fuel tanker on Delhi–Mumbai Expressway, killing two; case registered.
Purvanchal Expressway (2022) BMW speeding at over 230 kmph crashed into a truck, killing all four occupants.	**Palghar (2022)** Cyrus Mistry and Jehangir Pandole died after their Mercedes hit a divider; probe flagged overspeeding and seat-belt lapses.	**Bengaluru (2021)** Speeding Audi Q3 crashed into a pole and building, killing seven; police cited loss of control.	**Hosapete (2020)** Overspeeding Mercedes hit a pedestrian, killing him and a passenger; driver detained.

Prohibitory orders in Manipur village after violence, arson

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Smoke and flames billow after armed miscreants allegedly set fire to houses, at Litan Sareikhong village, in Ukhrul district of Manipur, on Monday. PTI

The Administration in Manipur's Naga-dominated Ukhrul district on Monday imposed prohibitory orders and deployed Central forces after several houses were set on fire in the Litan area, allegedly by both Naga and Kuki residents.

The tensions started on Saturday night when two groups belonging to Kuki and Naga communities engaged in a fight.

The administration said they were trying to identify the reason behind the fight, but sources said it started as the members of the groups were inebriated.

Ukhrul District Magistrate Asish Das said the prohibitory orders had been issued under Section 163 of the BNSS over apprehension of breach of peace and public harmony in the Litan area.

Fearing that the incident could take a communal turn, Manipur Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho, a Naga, rushed to the spot from state capital Imphal.

However, miscreants set fire to houses, defying prohibitory orders. Dikho said at least 20 houses were set on fire.

Litan is a Naga-dominated area, but it has Kuki settlements as well, said an official.

The Manipur government started a temporary helicopter service on Monday between Ukhrul and Imphal in view of the impact of the violence on transportation.

"Manipur is already going through a difficult phase due to the Meitei-Kuki conflict. So, I appeal to everyone to try to maintain peace," said Dikho.

The government is worried about a possible Naga-Kuki fight, which could jeopardise its efforts to end the Meitei-Kuki conflict that has been on since May 2023. Manipur witnessed Naga-Kuki conflicts earlier.

CM assures safety for Kuki-Zo visitors

Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Monday assured that his government would take responsibility for the safety of Kuki-Zo communities visiting Imphal, including for medical treatment.

The assurance appeared to be in response to an appeal by the Kuki Zo Council (KZC), which had urged Kukis to avoid postings in Meitei-dominated areas.

Scolded for mingling with boys, four girls end lives in Bihar

AURANGABAD, PTI: Four girls allegedly died by suicide together after their parents scolded them for mingling with boys at a place in Bihar's Aurangabad district, a senior police officer said on Monday.

Five girls, aged between 10 and 14 years, had reportedly consumed some poisonous substance on January 29 in a Dalit settlement in the Haspura police station area, and only one of them survived.

They were cremated on the same day without a post-mortem examination, and the police have begun an investigation after the local media reported it.

Aurangabad Superintendent of Police Ambrish Rahul said, "According to the statement of the surviving girl, they had decided to consume a poisonous substance after being scolded by their family members for mingling with a group of boys."

Rahul said they consumed the poison together in a field. While the four girls died, the fifth one returned home and informed her family members about the incident.

The girl had been hospitalised and is now out of danger.

The police have not been able to ascertain the involvement of any other person in the case.

"The deceased girls were cremated on January 29 itself, two days before the police received the information about the incident," a police official said.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

NHRC seeks report over '807 missing' persons in Delhi

NEW DELHI, PTI: The NHRC on Monday said it has taken cognisance of a media report citing police data that "807 people went missing" in the national capital during the first two weeks of January and issued notices to the Delhi government and the police commissioner.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) observed that the content of the report, if true, raises "serious issues of violation of human rights".

"Therefore, it has issued notices to the chief secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi and the commissioner of police, Delhi, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks," the NHRC said in a statement.

The NHRC has taken "suo motu cognisance of a media report that 807 people went missing in the national capital during the first two weeks of January 2026, as per the Delhi Police data. They include 191 minors and 616 adults. The police has traced 235 people and 572 remain untraced so far," the human rights panel said.

According to the media report published on February 5, a total of 24,508 people were reported missing in Delhi in 2025.

Shows cancelled after play on Godse sparks Cong protest in Gujarat

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

After Rajkot and Jamnagar, the performance of a play based on Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse was cancelled in Ahmedabad hours before schedule.

The Gujarat Congress and the party's student wing—the National Students' Union of India (NSUI)—staged a protest against the play, alleging that it was glorifying Godse.

They also questioned the state government's intent behind granting permission to hold the play in different parts of Gujarat.

Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda alleged, "RSS stooges have begun staging plays that praise Godse. I want to make it clear to all such people that as long as followers of Gandhi and his ideology are present in Gujarat, such plays will not be allowed."

He also claimed, "The BJP government granted permission for such shows in Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, and Ahmedabad. If Sardar saheb (Vallabhbhai Patel) were the home minister of the country today, those staging such plays would have been sent to jail."

The play is said to have been inspired by Pradeep Dalvi's Marathi play *Me Nathuram Godse Boltoy*

The play was to be staged first in Rajkot, but was forced to be cancelled after Congress workers' protests. Similarly, the show had to be cancelled in Jamnagar and then in Ahmedabad, where it was scheduled for Monday evening. The organisers couldn't be contacted despite repeated attempts.

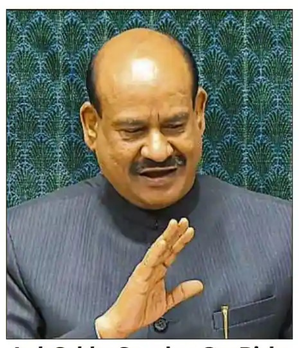
HOUSE HEAT: Grand old party begins signature drive, alleges partisan conduct in Lok Sabha

Cong moves to seek Speaker Birla's removal

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS:

Congress on Monday upped the ante on Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla by initiating an exercise to seek his removal from office, with the main Opposition party starting to collect signatures of MPs, accusing him of partisan behaviour.

A three-page notice highlighting four points -- Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi not being allowed to mention Naravane's book, allowing BJP MP Nishikant Dubey to quote books and attack Congress, suspension of eight MPs and claims of MPs preparing



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla conducts proceedings in the House on Monday. PTI

to attack the Prime Minister -- is being prepared and many Congress MPs have signed it, they said.

Sources said the move came as an "expression of accumulated frustration" over Birla's handling of affairs in Lok Sabha with regard to Opposition, even as they expressed hope that it would act as a "corrective" motion.

However, the Opposition did not submit the notice during the day, as Birla held discussions with Congress leader Rahul and other senior Opposition leaders to end the logjam in the House.

The Opposition has been up in arms after Rahul could not speak in the Lok Sabha during the debate on Motion of Thanks to the President's Address as he was disallowed from referring to the unpublished memoirs of Gen MM Naravane.

Allies lukewarm

While Congress claimed that a large number of parliamentarians have already signed the notice, sources said Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party were not very enthusiastic about the move, as they intend to corner the government during the general discussion on Budget.

Parties like NCP(SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT) were also not keen about the plan, which was mooted by the Congress at a meeting of Opposition floor leaders.

Sources said if the government and the Speaker fail to accede to the demand for allowing Rahul to speak on Tuesday, Congress may reach out to allies to join the bandwagon against Birla. The notice will be given under Article 94-C of the Constitution.

If the notice is accepted and comes up in the House, it will be the fourth time that a Speaker will face a resolution seeking removal. The resolutions against GV Mavlankar in 1954 and Balram Jakhar in 1987 were defeated but the one on Hukkam Singh in 1966 was not taken up as the motion did not get the support of a minimum of 50 MPs.

In December 2024, the Opposition had submitted a notice seeking removal of Jagdeep Dhankhar as Vice President, who was also Rajya Sabha Chairman.

They had also submitted one against Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh in September 2020. Both the notices were not accepted.

LoP in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party MPs Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Deepender Singh Hooda and others looks on as members who were suspended from the Lok Sabha last week for the remainder of the Budget session, stage a protest at Parliament premises in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

'Open defiance of norms': LS sources back Birla's stand

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A complete breakdown of discipline in the Lok Sabha led Speaker Om Birla to state that he felt the prime minister was in grave danger, Lok Sabha Secretariat sources said.

They were referring to Birla's remarks last week that he had asked PM Narendra Modi not to attend the House as he had "concrete information" that Congress MPs would stage protests that could result in "unfortunate incidents".

Sources added that this was contrary to statements and media comments by Opposition MPs and party functionaries, who alleged that Birla's remarks were unfounded and that there was no imminent threat to the PM.

"To place the matter in proper perspective, it is essential to appreciate that the above-mentioned statement made by the Hon'ble Speaker must be viewed against the backdrop of the grave and unprecedented disorder that unfolded in the House on that day. From the very commencement of the proceedings, the atmosphere in the Chamber deteriorated sharply, giving rise to serious concerns regarding safety, decorum and the dignity of parliamentary functioning," sources said.

As proceedings began, Opposition MPs entered the Well of the House, which Lok Sabha Secretariat sources described as "open defiance of established parliamentary norms".

"The situation escalated rapidly as certain members climbed onto tables, tore official papers, and hurled them towards the Chair," they said.

"Amid this chaos, several women MPs moved aggressively towards the PM's seat, forming a virtual cordon around it. Disturbingly, some women members crossed over to the Treasury Benches carrying banners and placards, adopting an openly confrontational posture. They not only laid siege to the PM's seat but also advanced deep into the Treasury Benches, encroaching upon the space where senior ministers were seated, thereby heightening the sense of disorder and insecurity within the Chamber," sources said.

LS Secretariat sources said that some MPs used unparliamentary language as the confrontation unfolded. All of these led to the Speaker's concerns, they added.

PM Modi avoided House over Naravane's book: Rahul

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not come to the House to reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address because he was scared of issues raised over former Army chief MM Naravane's book, and not due to any threat from MPs.

Rahul told reporters that if there had been any threat to the Prime Minister from MPs last Thursday, an FIR should have been filed against those involved. His remarks came after Congress women MPs wrote to Speaker Om Birla, objecting to his claim that he had information suggesting Congress MPs were planning to indulge in "unforeseen" protests against Modi.

"The fact is very clear. The Prime Minister was scared to come to the House, not because of the MPs, but because of what I was saying. He is still scared because he cannot face the truth. There is no question of our MPs attacking the Prime Minister. He should have the courage to come," Rahul said.

"I also mentioned that if somebody said he was going to attack the PM, then please file an FIR and arrest that person. Why are you not doing that?" he added.

RAHUL GANDHI
Leader of Opposition in the LS

"We are very disturbed about this idea that has been floated that members were going to threaten the PM. There is no question of that. The fact is very clear the prime minister was scared to come to the House not because of the members but because of what I was saying and he is still scared because he cannot face the truth.

He said the "one big issue" was that the LoP and Opposition were not allowed to speak during the discussion on the President's Address.

"First, they said that I could not quote a book. Then I said I was not quoting a book, I was quoting a magazine. Then they said I could not quote a magazine. I said I would speak about it, but they did not want me to speak. The Defence Minister falsely claimed that the book had not been published. In fact, the book has been published and we have a copy of it," he said.

Without naming BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, Rahul said the second issue was that one of their MPs, while quoting multiple books, made "very vile" remarks, which were allowed.

KIREN RIJIJU
Union Minister

"Now I have heard that Rahul (Gandhi) went to meet the Speaker with four points (conditions), including withdrawal of the suspension of the MPs. They have not said such things to me. From the government's side, we are very clear that we want the House to function properly since the beginning and even today.

DMK MP submits privilege notice against Goyal

NEW DELHI, DHNS: DMK Rajya Sabha floor leader Tiruchi Siva on Monday submitted a notice of breach of privilege against Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal for briefing the media about the Indo-US trade deal before apprising the Parliament, which is in session.

Siva mentioned his notice when the Rajya Sabha met, saying that Goyal has committed a breach of privilege by announcing the details of a policy decision of the government outside the House.

"I have given a notice of breach of privilege against Minister Piyush Goyal that he has given an interview concerning policy decisions of the government outside the House when Parliament was in session. It amounts to breach of privilege of this House," he said.

The Minister had made a statement in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on February 3 on the "framework understanding" reached with Washington on the trade deal and had said that the "detailed contours of the agreement" would be announced shortly. A joint statement was issued last Saturday and Goyal held a press conference and gave interviews to the media.

"This has already been discussed. He has already made the statement in the House. We will look into it later," Chairman CP Radhakrishnan said. However, the Opposition was not impressed and demanded that the notice be taken up immediately. Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge rose to speak but was not allowed.

Chidambaram criticises cuts in agriculture allocation

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Attacking the Union government for cutting allocations for agriculture and rural development, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Monday said it was a huge setback as villages would be deprived of better roads and houses.

Initiating a general discussion on the Budget in the Rajya Sabha, he said: "Agriculture allocation has been cut by Rs 6,985 crore. Rural development allocation has been cut by Rs 53,067 crore."

He noted, "Youth unemployment is 15%. Less than 25% of the workforce is in regular employment. There is a shift to self-employment, and more workers are in the agriculture sector than they were four or five years ago."

He added, "In a country of 144 crore people, only 1.95 crore are employed in a factory. Manufacturing, which is largely factories, is stuck at 16% for many, many years."

"This is a forgettable budget,... prepared by a finance minister who forgot her promises made in this House last year," he alleged.

Kerala: Sreelekha shuns PM's meet with elected BJP representatives

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Kerala's first woman IPS officer R Sreelekha, a BJP councillor in the Thiruvananthapuram corporation, is staying away from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with the state's elected local-body members.

This further aggravated speculations that Sreelekha had differences with the BJP leadership after she was denied the Thiruvananthapuram mayor post.

However, Sreelekha clarified that she was unable to travel by train to Delhi owing to age and health-related issues, and that she also did not want to waste money on flight charges.

She also said that she could stay back and carry out her duties as a councillor, and that there were no differences.

BJP councillors led by Thiruvananthapuram mayor V V Rajesh boarded a train to Delhi from here on Monday. They will be meeting the PM on February 13.

The councillors will also meet Union ministers to explore scopes for the state's development and attend skill-development meetings.

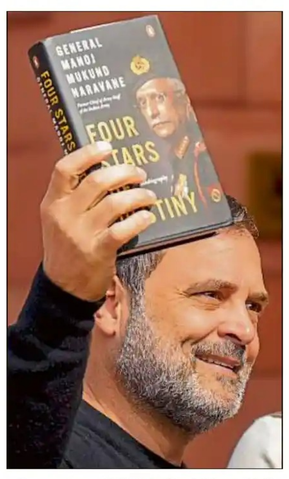
They are also expected to visit Parliament.

FIR over leak of ex-Army chief's unreleased book

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Delhi Police has registered an FIR over the circulation of an unpublished book of former Chief of Army Staff Gen M M Naravane on social media, an official statement said Monday.

"The Delhi Police has taken cognisance of information circulating on social media platforms and online news forums claiming that a pre-print copy of a book titled 'Four Stars of Destiny' is being circulated without mandatory clearance from competent authorities," the statement said.



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi shows a copy of the unpublished "memoir" of former Army chief M M Naravane during the Budget Session of Parliament. PTI

According to the police statement, it was also reported that the necessary clearance for publication of this book is yet to be received from the relevant authorities.

"Upon verification, it was found that a PDF copy of a type-set book with the same title and apparently prepared by M/s Penguin Random House India Pvt Ltd is available on certain websites and, also, some online marketing platforms have displayed the finished book cover as if it is available for purchase," it read.

The police said a case has been registered with the Special Cell in order to carry out a thorough investigation into this purported leak or breach of a yet-to-be-approved publication and an investigation is being taken up.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was seen flashing a purported copy of the book in the Parliament complex last week. The matter has generated immense heat with the proceedings of the Lok Sabha getting disrupted and 8 MPs getting suspended over the issue for the remaining part of ongoing Budget session.

'Bogus': Gogoi slams Sarma's Pak charges

Asks why SIT didn't question him; terms charges poll tactics

GUWAHATI, DHNS

POINT-BY-POINT REBUTTAL

- Congress leader accuses Assam CM of sitting on SIT report for six months
- Rejects claim of wife's bank account in Pakistan. Says she closed it after moving to India
- Defends asking border questions in Parliament
- Accuses Sarma of diversion tactics ahead of elections

Gaurav Gogoi in Guwahati on Monday. PTI

A day after Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma alleged that state Congress chief Gaurav Gogoi and his British wife Elizabeth Colburn had links with Pakistan, Gogoi on Monday dismissed the charges as false, baseless and bogus, and questioned why he had not been interrogated by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Addressing a press conference, Gogoi, a Lok Sabha member from Jorhat, responded point by point to Sarma's claims and the SIT's allegations, saying they were part of political tactics ahead of the Assembly elections.

"Why did the SIT not deem it necessary to question me if my activities were truly a threat to national security? I publicly announced that I was ready to go to their office and answer their questions. If the SIT report revealed something against national security, why did the CM sit on it for six months? He now says the delay was due to singer Zubeen Garg's death. But Garg died on September 19. Both the SIT and Sarma have produced no proof to support these allegations," Gogoi said.

Replying to Sarma's question about his 10-day visit to Pakistan in 2013, Gogoi said he had gone to see the places where his wife had worked with Lead Pakistan, an NGO, for about a year. "I wanted to see how a girl from England spent a year in a country like Pakistan — where she stayed, where she went shopping, etc."

On why he travelled beyond Islamabad to Lahore and Karachi, Gogoi said, "Later, I wanted to see Takshashila, an archaeological wonder. Accordingly, I applied for a visa to visit Takshashila and was granted the same."

Gogoi rejected Sarma's claim that Elizabeth still had a bank account in Pakistan. "It's a lie. She closed it after moving to India. CM also said she was paid salary from Pakistan for a year — also false. She received only one month's salary during the shift," he said.

On Sarma's question why he had asked sensitive questions on India's border and defence in Parliament months after his Pakistan visit, Gogoi countered, "Can't an MP from Assam ask questions of national importance? If my questions were contrary to national security, the Lok Sabha Secretariat would not have allowed the same."

Owaisi files complaint against Assam CM for video showing him 'shooting' at Muslims

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday filed a complaint with the Hyderabad police against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over a now-deleted video posted on social media by the Assam BJP.

Owaisi alleged that the video depicted the Chief Minister 'shooting' Muslims and described it as violent and provocative. "I have lodged an official complaint with the Hyderabad police demanding criminal action against Himanta Sarma for his now-deleted violent video showing him shooting Muslims. Unfortunately, genocidal hate speech has become a norm," Owaisi said.

In the complaint, Owaisi said that Himanta has, for several years, been continuously making statements against the Muslim community through social media, print media, public speeches and other platforms, many of which are still available in the public domain.

He alleged that in recent months, the Chief Minister had deliberately intensified his hate speeches with a clear and conscious intention to outrage the religious feelings of Muslims and promote enmity between Hindus and Muslims, fully aware that such statements are prejudicial to national integration and destructive of communal harmony.

Owaisi stated that a video posted on February 7, 2026, on the official X account of the Assam BJP — and taken down a day later — portrayed Himanta Biswa Sarma armed with a firearm and targeting persons clearly depicted as Muslims.

SUBSCRIBER-FRIENDLY

New EPFO app to allow withdrawal via UPI

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is set to introduce a new dedicated mobile application that will enable subscribers to withdraw their Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) amounts directly into their bank accounts using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

According to government sources, the app is expected to launch in April 2026. This forms part of efforts to modernise EPFO services.

Under the proposed system, a portion of the EPF balance will remain frozen (to preserve long-term retirement savings), while a significant portion will be accessible for withdrawal directly to the member's seeded bank account via UPI. Some of the important features of the new app include viewing the eligible EPF balance available for transfer, completing secure transactions using a linked UPI PIN, and accessing additional services, such as checking passbook balances.

Existing platforms like the Universal Account Number (UAN) portal and the UMANG app will continue to offer EPFO services, with the new dedicated app enhancing overall accessibility and convenience for members, said an official in the Ministry of Labour.

Currently, EPFO members must submit withdrawal claims, which can be time-consuming. The auto-settlement mode already allows faster processing (within three days) for claims up to Rs 5 lakh (increased from Rs 1 lakh) for purposes like illness, education, marriage, or housing.

The new UPI-based system aims to further streamline this by eliminating much of the manual process, reducing the burden on EPFO amid over 5 crore annual claims. The organisation cannot permit direct withdrawals from EPF accounts due to lacking banking licenses, so funds will transfer via UPI to linked bank accounts.

Trials are underway using 100 dummy accounts to test the system, fix glitches, and ensure smooth rollout. This upgrade is poised to benefit EPFO's vast subscriber base.

MVA faces test as Pawar, Uddhav's RS & MLC terms end

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has a major challenge ahead as the Rajya Sabha and Maharashtra Legislative Council terms of Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray, respectively, draw to a close.

The MVA, which consists of the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (SP), is expected to see several rounds of consultations in the weeks ahead.

For the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Council elections, the electoral college comprises the 288-member Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, where the BJP-led Maha Yuti — the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the NCP, led by late Ajit Pawar, being the other constituents — commands a brute majority.

Sharad Pawar with Uddhav Thackeray. PTI

It may be noted that Sharad Pawar's RS term ends on April 2, while Uddhav's last day as an MLC is May 13.

Sharad Pawar is one of the two NCP (SP) MPs whose RS term ends on April 2, the other being Fauzia Khan. The other five are the BJP's Dhairyashil Mohan Patil and Bhagwat Karad, RPI (A) chief and Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale, the Congress' Rajani Patil, and the Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Priyanka Chaturvedi.

Following Ajit's death, the Assembly's strength is 287. Of the Maha Yuti members, the BJP has 131 MLAs, the Shiv Sena 57, and the NCP 40. It also has the support of two JSS MLAs, and one lawmaker each from the RSP (S), RSP(A), and the RSYP, besides an Independent.

On the other hand, the MVA and the full Opposition strength include the Shiv Sena (UBT)'s 20, the Congress' 16, the NCP (SP)'s 10, the SP's two, and one each from the CPM, PWP, and the AIMIM.

The MVA can aim for at least one Rajya Sabha seat if it votes as a bloc.

Pawar has already indicated that he wants to exit electoral politics. However, Sanjay Raut is batting for the veteran's return.

Confident Group MD denies I-T pressure in realtor's death

Rejects CJ Roy's brother's version, says raids were 'routine, respectful'

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Confident Group managing director TA Joseph said on Monday that company chairman CJ Roy, who died by shooting himself at his Bengaluru office on January 30 during an Income Tax search, was not facing harassment from officials.

Speaking to reporters in Kochi, Joseph said that the initial reaction of Roy's brother CJ Babu — that Roy was under pressure from I-T officials — may have come from shock over his sudden death. He added that the special investigation team probing the case had strictly barred him from making any statements that could affect the ongoing inquiry.

"I-T raids are quite routine in business. They have taken place in our offices earlier, including recently in Kochi. The officials were reasonable and respectful in their approach and never caused us any difficulties. I am sure that in Bengaluru also they did not cause any difficulties," Joseph said.

"Babu came down from abroad on hearing the news of Roy's death. He was in shock and unaware of what was happening here. That could be why he made such a statement," said Joseph, who heads the real estate firm's Kerala operations.

Joseph added that the petition filed in the high court against the I-T department's searches was withdrawn as the company felt it was not advisable to confront government agencies. "Our chartered accountant and lawyer decided to file the petition since Roy was summoned to Kochi from Bengaluru by I-T officials. But I felt it was not good to go into confrontation with a government agency," Joseph said.

Asked about allegations by political parties that Roy was a victim of the tax system, Joseph said there "could be politics", but he was not sure. "We have no alliance with any political parties. We have no such complaints that he was a victim of the tax system."

Strongly rejecting the possibility of business or family-related stress behind Roy's death, Joseph suggested that other factors such as genetic or biological issues, including thyroid imbalances, could have contributed to stress. He added that the note Roy left was meant only for his family and therefore he had not read it.

Joseph also alleged that a section of fringe media, mostly YouTube channels, was spreading baseless reports tarnishing the image of Roy and the company. He said that the press conference, earlier postponed, was being held now to counter such reports, and added that the probe was progressing satisfactorily.

'Jana Nayagan' makers to approach CBFC revising panel

CHENNAI, DHNS: With the legal battle not yielding desired results, the producers of *Jana Nayagan*, the cinematic swansong of popular Tamil actor Vijay, have decided to send the movie to the Revising Committee of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for its perusal.

The day also saw the producers moving the Madras High Court registry for withdrawing the writ petition filed against the CBFC.

If the Revising Committee clears the movie, which the Examining Committee had recommended U/A 16+ certificate, KVN Productions, which bankrolled the film, is eyeing a February 20 release, sources told *DH*.

Though there was no official confirmation, sources said the movie is being sent to the EC after the producers decided not to continue the legal fight and slug it out with the CBFC.

It is understood that the producers decided to go back to the CBFC due to pressure from an OTT platform that bought the movie and the fear that the film might come under the scrutiny of the Election Commission of India (ECI) once the Model Code of Conduct for the April-May Tamil Nadu polls comes into effect.

Made to give the elevation that Vijay needs before his electoral debut in the Assembly polls, Jana Nayagan seems to contain politically loaded dialogues. The movie was to be released on January 9.

Stray dogs poisoned using surgical drug in Telangana

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Preliminary assessments by Telangana police indicate that suxamethonium chloride (succinylcholine), an anaesthetic used in humans prior to surgical procedures, was employed in the mass killing of stray dogs in rural areas of the state.

Officials, however, said they were awaiting forensic analysis to confirm the exact cause of death. Over a one-month period, four separate incidents claimed the lives of around 1,000 dogs across villages in a couple of districts, with 100 to 200 animals killed in each incident in a systematic and organised manner by personnel allegedly hired by local village panchayat leaders.

Primarily used in human medicine for intubation and surgery, succinylcholine is also used in veterinary practice, often in combination with other drugs for animal euthanasia and immobilisation. Police have arrested one suspect who was allegedly caught injecting dogs with the substance.

"Police have seized suxamethonium chloride (succinylcholine) injections from the person executing these killings. More details are awaited and are expected once forensic laboratory analysis reports arrive," Adulapuram Goutham, Animal Cruelty Prevention Manager at the Stray Animal Foundation of India (SAFI), told *DH*.

It is understood that election promises may have fuelled the mass killing of stray dogs in Telangana. During recent panchayat polls, several candidates reportedly vowed to eliminate threats posed by dogs and monkeys. While monkeys are typically captured and relocated to nearby forests, newly elected sarpanches are alleged to have hired professionals to poison stray dogs with syringes while they sleep, in an attempt to fulfil their pledges.

The dogs reportedly die within minutes, after which their carcasses are buried on the outskirts of villages.

'Ye joh ladki hai': Nitish sparks row with remarks against Rabri

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday triggered controversy in the Legislative Council when he rebuked former CM Rabri Devi, referring to her as "a girl" who "never worked when in office".

Rabri, who served as CM from 1997 to 2005 and is now Leader of the Opposition in the Council, was speaking on rising rape incidents across the state. "Not a single district in Bihar has been left untouched where you won't find rape cases being reported," she said.

Nitish's remarks — *"Ye joh ladki hai... kabhi kuch kaam ki hai?"* — drew sharp reactions, adding to recent criticism of his language in the House.

Nitish Kumar

Rabri Devi

"Her husband, after being removed, anointed her as CM. It was only when we took over in 2005 that Bihar was put back on the road to development," Nitish added.

The comments came days after he rebuked RJD leader and Rabri's son Tejashwi Yadav in the Assembly, telling him, "You are a child... I was with your father."

Lalu's daughter Rohini Acharya was the first to criticise Nitish's language. "Your language is becoming uncharitable day by day... It has become a habit to show utter disregard towards women, and you have done so more than a dozen times in the House as well as in public meetings, crossing all limits of decency," she said.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

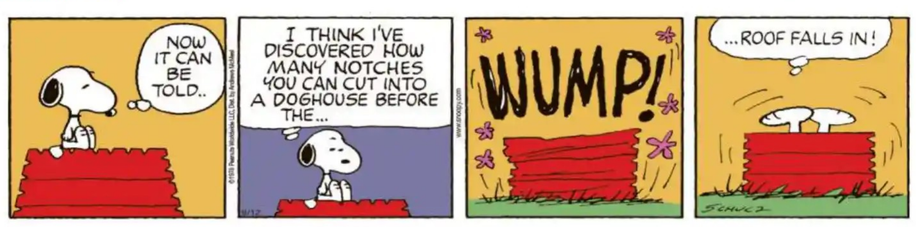
Blondie

24 CHEFS!! COOKING 24 DISHES!! IN 24 HOURS!!
WHOA!
WOW! UP ALL NIGHT? AREN'T THESE COOKING SHOWS GETTING A BIT EXTREME?
WHAT'S NEXT...CHEFS RACING THROUGH KITCHENS ON ZIP LINES?
HONEY, YOU NEVER KNOW!
ZIP LINE CHEFS on food

Hagar The Horrible

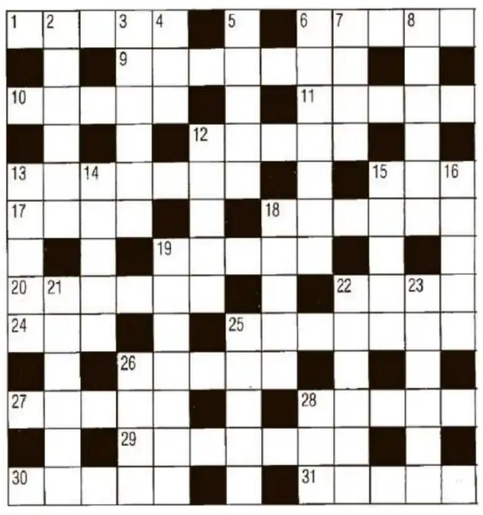
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts



Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12350



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Fast transport for a quiet country road (5)
6 Geese to look up to? (5)
9 Tell how the axle pin broke (7)
10 Kept cool (2,3)
11 A vegetable vessel (5)
12 The correct direction (5)
13 Put off by the song during an act (7)
15 A worn machine part (3)
17 Rode around the river (4)
18 And Eva managed to sort out where Reno was (6)
19 Dashing young man known as a Red? (5)
20 Grand amours understood to be fitting (6)
22 Organ one's broken (4)
24 One has the makings of a great time (3)
25 To glide freely at height can be a joy! (7)
26 Lordly lad capturing the heart of a girl (5)
27 It's strikingly misplaced in a down to earth way (5)
28 Time for a shower (5)
29 A great day to go to Chile, possibly in a carrier (7)
30 Two? Goody! (5)
31 Showed interest when priced a hundred less (5)

DOWN
2 Sort of proprietor who got the job? (6)
3 It tastes heavenly with ambrosia (6)
4 No longer noted as a river? (3)
5 Material authority I had (5)
6 Observed to be soundly located (7)
7 One tied at speed? (4)
8 The incursion Dorian made (6)
12 Anglers' films? (5)
13 A trick to avoid (5)
14 No elm can yield fruit! (5)
15 His associate makes him motherless! (5)
16 Is he young to be in uniform? (5)
18 Number with a name that's well known (5)
19 Are best corrected by scolds (7)
21 Look with desire, being fairly poor (6)
22 Pin-up by a youngster (6)
23 Bird giving a shriek? (6)
25 Though priestly, he did hide some of the rules (5)
26 Nothing but the deepest affection (4)
28 A record height? (3)

ACROSS
1 Phantom (5)
6 Era (5)
9 According to reason (7)
10 Behave smugly (5)
11 Perch (5)
12 Tease (5)
13 Get better (7)
15 Jump on one foot (3)
17 Minute particle (4)
18 Take for granted (6)
19 Very tall person (5)
20 Pressed (6)
22 Cut into cubes (4)
24 Karate expert (3)
25 Lodger (7)
26 Disparage (5)
27 Aircraft detection system (5)
28 Spaghetti, for example (5)
29 Principal bullfighter (7)
30 Cant (5)
31 Kinds (5)

DOWN
2 Protection for the head (6)
3 Skiing race (6)
4 Toddler (3)
5 Cheroot, for example (5)
6 Sincere (7)
7 Conspiracy (4)
8 Traditional practice (6)
12 Lukewarm (5)
13 Quick (5)
14 Punctuation mark (5)
15 Hot and sticky (5)
16 Boy's name (5)
18 Irritate, displease (5)
19 Common (7)
21 Plunder (6)
22 Doleful (6)
23 Middle (6)
25 Staff of life (5)
26 Panto character (4)
28 A container (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12349

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, T-r-act 8, Felix 10, Hobby 11, Pet 12, Organ 13, T-ENable 15, Piste 18, Dud 19, Pecker 21, Netball 22, Heal 23, Stop 24, Gym shoe 26, Path-O-s 29, Tel. 31, St.-yes 32, Minim-a-L 34, Asp-ic 35, D(o)ug(h) 36, Maori 37, Older 38, Spiel.
DOWN: 1, Re-p-el 2, C-itadel 4, Rare 5, Chape-L 6, Tonic 7, ABate 9, Len 12, Old boys 14, But 16, Skate 17, Erup-t 19, Plasti-C 20, Chips 21, Na-TT-y 23, Solidly 24, Gossip 25, Hen 27, Atlas 28, H-ears 30, Lager 32, Mice 33, Mud.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Islam 8, Deter 10, Banal 11, Cos 12, Divan 13, Striker 15, Topic 18, Dip 19, Perish 21, Demotes 22, Ties 23, Nods 24, Rivulet 26, Amulet 29, Sot 31, Lotus 32, Pebbles 34, Rules 35, Ail 36, Denim 37, Elder 38, Death.
DOWN: 1, Sects 2, Besides 4, Stir 5, Abates 6, Manor 7, Paris 9, Tor 12, Deposit 14, Kim 16, Pivot 17, Chest 19, Peruses 20, Steal 21, Debut 23, Netball 24, Resume 25, Lob 27, Motel 28, Lurid 30, Melee 32, Pest 33, Lid.

◆SU-DO-KU-6826◆

		5		2		9		4
	2							8
		6	9		3	1		
			5	1				
	5			8			9	
				3	9			
		9	4		7	3		
3							8	
5		4		6		2		

medium

8	9	1	7	5	6	3	4	2
5	7	3	2	4	1	9	6	8
2	4	6	3	8	9	1	7	5
7	2	8	9	6	3	5	1	4
9	3	5	1	7	4	2	8	6
6	1	4	5	2	8	7	9	3
3	8	7	4	9	5	6	2	1
1	6	9	8	3	2	4	5	7
4	5	2	6	1	7	8	3	9

SOLUTION TO 6825

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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A1	P3	R1	E1	L1	N1	T1	RACK 1
V4	T1	O1	E1	R1	P3	Y4	3rd Letter Triple — RACK 2
I1	E1	C3	M3	R1	T1	U1	Triple Word Score — RACK 3
O1	O1	C3	M3	R1	N1	F4	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 155-165
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

W4 I1 R1 E1 M3 A1 N1	RACK 1 =	86
R1 A1 N1 S1 A1 C3 K5	RACK 2 =	89
O1 G2 L1 I1 N1 G2 S1	RACK 3 =	77
H4 A1 G2 F4 I1 S1 H4	RACK 4 =	101
PAR SCORE 240-250	JUDD'S TOTAL	353

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

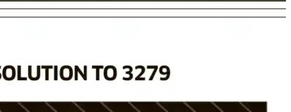
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CCIKL

GFNIE

RTYNHO

SOWOHH


Boy, do I have a tale to tell!
Great! Keep me informed!
I heard from a source that the grail may be in a cave.
KING ARTHUR'S MEN WOULD GATHER EACH EVENING TO REPORT ON THE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DEITY HARSH SCENIC TARTAR
Answer: After his truck broke down, his trailer needed to — HITCH A RIDE

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HITORI-3280

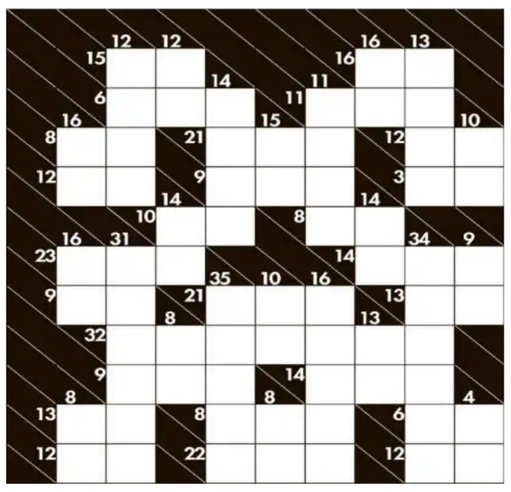
4	8	8	5	4	4	3	2
2	1	3	4	4	6	8	4
4	3	4	1	5	4	6	7
3	7	2	3	8	3	7	4
1	2	7	3	2	8	4	6
4	5	4	8	7	4	2	5
6	8	4	7	3	2	1	8
8	4	5	4	2	3	7	6

SOLUTION TO 3279

■	3	6	7	■	1	8	■
2	■	1	5	3	8	■	4
8	1	3	2	■	6	4	7
■	7	■	1	6	5	2	■
4	2	7	6	1	■	3	5
■	6	2	■	7	3	5	■
5	4	■	8	2	7	1	3
■	5	4	3	■	2	■	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3280



SOLUTION TO 3279

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3823

■	6	7						■
	4					3	2	
		■	7			■		
		4	■		■	5		
	8	3		5		6	7	
			■		9			
		■				■		
						9		
3		1	5	2				8

SOLUTION TO 3822

9	7	8	2	4	3	6	1	5
5	1	3	8	9	6	4	7	2
4	6	2	7	5	1	8	3	9
1	4	7	3	8	9	5	2	6
2	3	5	4	6	7	1	9	8
6	8	9	1	2	5	3	4	7
8	9	4	6	1	2	7	5	3
7	2	6	5	3	4	9	8	1
3	5	1	9	7	8	2	6	4

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Takaichi's big win in Japan election could mean more beef with China

Beijing warns against 'militarism' as Tokyo presses ahead

TOKYO, REUTERS

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's thumping election win has blunted domestic opposition to her hawkish security agenda, encouraging plans to press ahead with a defence expansion that China has condemned as a return to militarism.

As the scale of her government's historic victory became clear on Sunday — capturing 352 of the 465 seats in the lower house — Takaichi said she would "work flat out to deliver" an agenda that includes building a military strong enough to deter Chinese threats to its islands, including those close to Taiwan.

In November, Takaichi touched off a diplomatic storm with Beijing by suggesting Japan could respond militarily to any Chinese attack on the democratically governed island if it also threatened Japanese territory. "I expect to see Japan very forward-leaning on defence policy, such as her statements on a Taiwan contingency," said Kevin Maher, a former US diplomat now with NMV Consulting in Washington. "One impact could be that President Xi Jinping comes to understand her strong stance," he added.

Japan should not repeat the mistakes of militarism, says Beijing

China on Monday said that Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's massive victory in the midterm polls reflects some deep-seated structural problems and shifting ideological currents, PTI reports from Beijing. "We urge Japan's ruling authorities to take seriously, rather than ignore, the concerns of the international community, and to pursue the path of peaceful development instead of repeating the mistakes of militarism," foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said.

China responded furiously to Takaichi's Taiwan comment, promising to "resolutely prevent the resurgence of Japanese militarism" if Tokyo continued on its "wrong path". Beijing also imposed a series of economic countermeasures, including a boycott on travel to Japan and export restrictions on items such as rare earths that it says Tokyo could use in military equipment.

Shingo Yamagami, a senior fellow at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and a former Japanese ambassador to Australia, said the "hidden agenda" of the Sunday election was China.

"In light of belligerent actions and waves of economic coercion, should Japan acquiesce or stand tall?" he wrote on X. "The Japanese people clearly chose the latter." Taiwan's de facto ambassador to Japan, Lee Yi-yang, was among the first foreign dignitaries to congratulate Takaichi, writing on Facebook that her victory showed Japan was not intimidated by China's "threats and pressure".

China's foreign ministry on Monday again urged Takaichi to withdraw her remarks on Taiwan and said its policy towards Japan would not be changed by one election. "We urge Japan's ruling authorities to take seriously, rather than ignore, the concerns of the international community, and to pursue the path of peaceful development instead of repeating the mistakes of militarism," foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said.

Takaichi responded by saying Japan was open to dialogue. "We will respond calmly and appropriately from the standpoint of Japan's national interest," Takaichi said on Monday.

Takaichi, a fan of Britain's former leader Margaret Thatcher, is already accelerating defence spending to bring it to a record 2% of gross domestic product by the end of March. She has also pledged to ease restrictions on arms exports and allow Japan to pursue joint defence equipment projects with other countries.

Her administration plans to formulate a new national security strategy, likely by year end, that would further accelerate military spending.

Babies among 53 dead or missing as migrant boat sinks off Libya

CAIRO, AP/PTI: Two babies are among at least 53 people dead or missing after an inflatable migrant boat sank off Libya, the UN migration agency said on Monday, the latest tragedy on a dangerous route for those seeking a better life in Europe.

The UN's International Organisation for Migration said in a statement that the boat with 55 African migrants on board departed Libya's western town of Zawiya shortly before midnight on Thursday. Around six hours later, it began taking on water and capsized on Friday morning north of the town of Zuwara, it said.

Two Nigerian women survived the shipwreck and were rescued by Libyan authorities, IOM said. One of them said she lost her husband, while the other reported losing her two babies.

"Trafficking and smuggling networks continue to exploit migrants along the central Mediterranean route," the UN agency said. These networks make profits through using "unseaworthy boats" to sail migrants from the chaos-stricken Libya to European shores, it added.

Starmer fights for his job as Epstein fallout worsens

UK ministers back under-fire PM as pressure intensifies

LONDON, AFP

Senior UK ministers rallied around embattled Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday after a prominent ally dealt a blow to his authority by demanding he quit for embroiling the British government in the Epstein scandal.

The rearguard action came as Starmer scrambled to avert the most serious crisis of his faltering 19-month premiership, which has been beset by policy U-turns and dire poll ratings, raising questions about his political future.

Starmer's position appeared increasingly fragile after Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar called on him to resign for appointing Peter Mandelson as US ambassador despite knowing he had maintained links to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

"The distraction needs to end, and the leadership in Downing Street has to change," Sarwar told a press conference in Glasgow, becoming the most senior Labour politician to publicly urge Starmer to step down.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer with former British ambassador to the United States Peter Mandelson (left) in Washington DC. REUTERS FILE

Downing Street insisted the prime minister was going nowhere, saying he would fulfil a "five-year mandate from the British people to deliver change".

Several cabinet ministers voiced support for Starmer following days of ominous silence, including Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy, Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper and Finance Minister Rachel Reeves.

Left-wing figurehead Angela Rayner and Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood, both tipped as potential successors to Starmer, also said they had "full support" for their leader.

Earlier on Monday, Starmer lost his second senior aide in two days when communications chief Tim Allan quit just months into the role.

On Sunday, Starmer's chief of staff, Morgan McSweeney, resigned after saying he had advised the prime minister to make the contentious appointment of Mandelson.

McSweeney's departure deprives the beleaguered UK leader of his closest adviser and the strategist credited with helping Starmer pull Labour back to the political centre after he succeeded left-wing leader Jeremy Corbyn in 2020.

Starmer has had several communications chiefs during his short tenure, with staff departures, policy reversals and missteps becoming an increasing hallmark of his administration and denting his popularity.

Conservative opposition leader Kemi Badenoch told BBC radio that Starmer's position was "untenable", but the prime minister vowed in an emergency meeting with staff to carry on.

Ghislaine declines to answer questions from House panel

Lawmakers tried on Monday to interview Ghislaine Maxwell, but the former girlfriend and confidante of Jeffrey Epstein invoked her 5th Amendment rights to avoid answering questions that would be incriminating, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

Maxwell was to be questioned during a video call to the federal prison camp in Texas where she's serving a 20-year sentence for sex trafficking.

Maxwell's attorney, David Markus, said she would be prepared to speak publicly if granted clemency by President Donald Trump. "If this Committee and the American public truly want to hear the unfiltered truth about what happened, there is a straightforward path," Markus said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Singer Bad Bunny performs during Super Bowl LX Patriots vs Seahawks Apple Music Halftime Show in Santa Clara, California, on Sunday. AFP

Russia to support BRICS agenda presented by India, says Lavrov

▶ Russia will actively support India's chairmanship of BRICS with its current agenda, which is "modern, highly-relevant" with an emphasis on counter-terrorism and energy security, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday, PTI reports from Moscow.

India formally assumed on January 1, 2026, the chairmanship of BRICS, a 10-member bloc comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, along with five new members. "India's chairmanship, in my view, presents a modern, highly relevant agenda that addresses today's challenges while preparing for the future. We will actively support it," Lavrov said in an interview with TV BRICS International Network ahead of Russian Diplomats' Day, marked on February 10. The foreign minister said that India places particular emphasis on counter-terrorism, which remains highly relevant. "Terrorist activities are observed in Afghanistan, along its borders, and along the India–Pakistan–Afghanistan corridor, as well as in other hotspots...," he said.

'Import women' row in S Korea

▶ A provincial government in South Korea has apologised after a mayor suggested importing young women from Southeast Asia to boost the nation's birth rate, AFP reports from Seoul.

Jindo County Mayor Kim Hee-soo said last week that rural hamlets could address shrinking populations by pairing bachelors with women enticed from Vietnam or Sri Lanka. "We should import young women from Vietnam or Sri Lanka so that young men in rural areas can marry them," he told a town hall meeting. The remarks were condemned in local media and triggered a diplomatic backlash, reportedly drawing an official complaint from the Vietnamese embassy in Seoul.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan welcomes US Vice President JD Vance in Yerevan on Monday. Armenia and the United States signed a civil nuclear deal later in the day. AFP

US to quit some Nato commands

▶ The United States will hand over two top regional commands in Nato to European countries, diplomats said Monday, as President Donald Trump presses allies to take greater responsibility for their defence, AFP reports from Brussels.

Washington will transfer leadership of Nato's Naples command, which focuses on the alliance's south, to Italy and leadership of its Norfolk command in Virginia, focusing on the alliance's north, to Britain. The US will meanwhile take over the command of Nato's maritime forces, based in the United Kingdom.

UK scholarships for Indians

▶ King's College London on Monday announced a third year of the university's special scholarship scheme for postgraduate Indian students, PTI reports from London.

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards will offer 5,000 pounds in fee reductions for up to 40 students from India as they study full-time on campus. To apply for the award, students must demonstrate that they will use their skills and knowledge to enhance society once their studies are complete and demonstrate how they would make the most of their time at the university, both academically and personally.

Israel clears measures to tighten control over West Bank

JERUSALEM, AP/PTI: Israel's security cabinet on Sunday approved measures that aim to deepen Israeli control over the occupied West Bank and weaken the already limited powers of the Palestinian Authority.

The office of far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich in a statement announced the decisions that would make it easier for Jewish settlers to force Palestinians to give up land, adding that "we will continue to bury the idea of a Palestinian state."

Yonatan Mizrachi, a researcher with the Israeli anti-settlement watchdog group Peace Now, called the decision "very significant." He said the decision still requires approval by Israel's top commander for the West Bank. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in a statement called the decision "dangerous".

Thailand's ruling party on track to win most seats

BANGKOK, AP/PTI: The Bhumjaithai Party of Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul is on track to win the most seats in Thailand's general election, according to unofficial results released by the state Election Commission after about 94 per cent of polling stations had reported on Monday.

It's the first decisive victory of a conservative party in Thailand in years. Sunday's election came against a backdrop of slow economic growth and heightened nationalist sentiment. Voter turnout stood at around 65 per cent, significantly lower than in the 2023 election.

HK sentences media mogul Jimmy Lai to 20 years in jail

Rights groups warn sentence cripples Hong Kong press freedom

HONG KONG, AFP

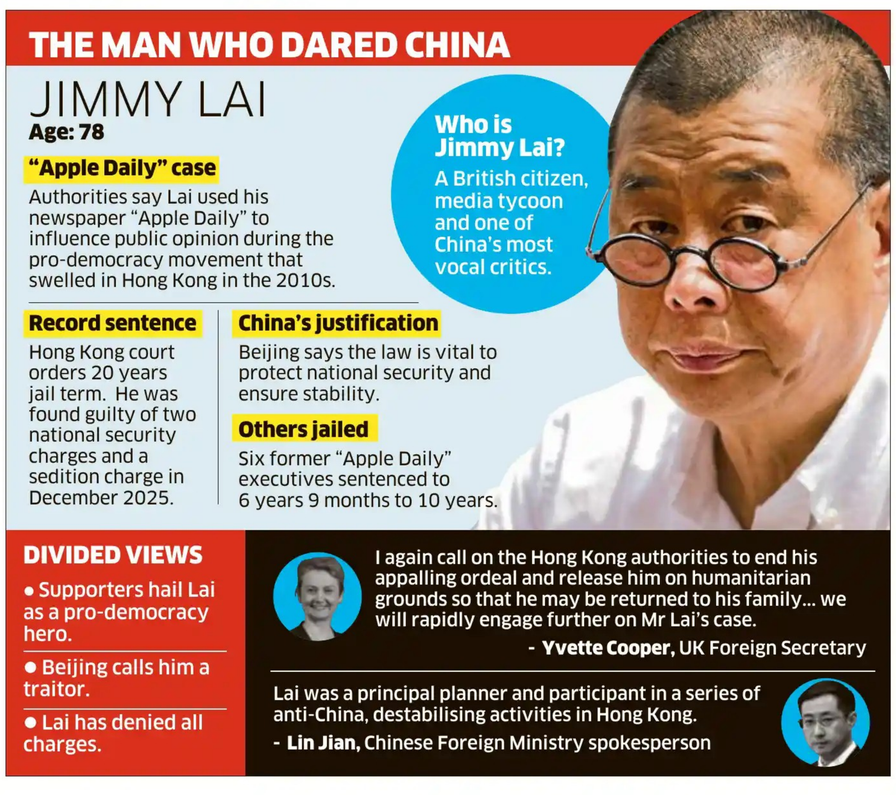
A Hong Kong court on Monday sentenced pro-democracy media mogul Jimmy Lai to 20 years in prison for national security crimes, a punishment rights groups condemned as "effectively a death sentence" and a symbol of the city's shrinking press freedoms.

Lai, a British citizen and founder of the now-defunct Apple Daily newspaper, was found guilty in December of collusion with foreign countries by urging them to impose sanctions on Hong Kong and for publishing "seditious" articles in his paper.

The 78-year-old's sentence is by far the harshest imposed under Hong Kong's national security law, which Beijing enacted in 2020 following massive pro-democracy protests in the former British colony.

In a summary, the three High Court judges said they had settled on 20 years' imprisonment "after considering the serious and grave criminal conduct of Lai".

Lai, who has been behind bars since 2020, sat impassively in the dock as his sentence was read out. He waved to family members and supporters in the public gallery as he was led away.


THE MAN WHO DARED CHINA
JIMMY LAI
Age: 78
"Apple Daily" case
Authorities say Lai used his newspaper "Apple Daily" to influence public opinion during the pro-democracy movement that swelled in Hong Kong in the 2010s.
Record sentence
Hong Kong court orders 20 years jail term. He was found guilty of two national security charges and a sedition charge in December 2025.
China's justification
Beijing says the law is vital to protect national security and ensure stability.
Others jailed
Six former "Apple Daily" executives sentenced to 6 years 9 months to 10 years.
Who is Jimmy Lai?
A British citizen, media tycoon and one of China's most vocal critics.
DIVIDED VIEWS
• Supporters hail Lai as a pro-democracy hero.
• Beijing calls him a traitor.
• Lai has denied all charges.
I again call on the Hong Kong authorities to end his appalling ordeal and release him on humanitarian grounds so that he may be returned to his family... we will rapidly engage further on Mr Lai's case.
- Yvette Cooper, UK Foreign Secretary
Lai was a principal planner and participant in a series of anti-China, destabilising activities in Hong Kong.
- Lin Jian, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson

US military board sanctioned oil tanker in Indian Ocean

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

US military forces boarded a sanctioned oil tanker in the Indian Ocean after tracking the ship from the Caribbean Sea, the Pentagon said Monday.

The Pentagon's statement on social media did not say whether the ship was connected to Venezuela, which faces US sanctions on its oil and relies on a shadow fleet of falsely flagged tankers to smuggle crude into global supply chains.

However, the Aquila II was one of at least 16 tankers that departed the Venezuelan coast last month after US forces captured then-President Nicolás Maduro, said Samir Madani, co-founder of TankerTrackers.com. He said his organisation used satellite imagery and surface-level photos to document the ship's movements.

According to data transmitted from the ship on Monday, it is not currently laden with a cargo of crude oil.

The Aquila II is a Panamanian-flagged tanker under US sanctions related to the shipment of illicit Russian oil.

Owned by a company with a listed address in Hong Kong, ship tracking data shows it has spent much of the last year with its radio transponder turned off, a practice known as "running dark" commonly employed by smugglers to hide their location.

US Southern Command, which oversees Latin America, said in an email that it had nothing to add to the Pentagon's post on X. The post said the military "conducted a right-of-visit, maritime interdiction" on the ship.

"The Aquila II was operating in defiance of President Trump's established quarantine of sanctioned vessels in the Caribbean," the Pentagon said. "It ran, and we followed."

The US did not say it had seized the ship, which the US has done previously with at least seven other sanctioned oil tankers linked to Venezuela.

HORMUZ WARNING

■ **The US issued fresh guidance on Monday to commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping lane for West Asia oil supplies, as tensions simmered between Washington and Tehran over Iran's nuclear programme. Iran has in the past threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz. The US Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration advised US-flagged commercial vessels to stay as far from Iran's territorial waters as possible and to verbally decline permission for Iranian forces to board if asked.**

Simple brain training exercise can reduce dementia risk by 25%: Study

PARIS, AFP: A simple brain-training exercise could reduce people's risk of developing dementia by 25%, a study said Monday, but with outside researchers expressing caution in interpreting the results.

There are vast amounts of brain-training games and apps which claim to fight off cognitive decline, although there has been little high-quality, long-term research proving their effectiveness.

The study is a randomised controlled trial -- considered the gold standard for medical research -- which first began enrolling participants in the late 1990s. Over 2,800 people aged 65 or older were part of the study. First, the participants did an hour-long training session twice a week for five weeks. One and three years later, they did four booster sessions. In total, there were fewer than 24 hours of training.

During follow-ups after five, 10 and most recently 20 years, the speed training was always "disproportionately beneficial", study co-author Marilyn Albert of Johns Hopkins University in the US told AFP.

Flipkart hires former Blinkit CFO for big role

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Flipkart Group on Monday announced two senior leadership appointments. Vipin Kapooria has rejoined Flipkart as Vice-President, Business Finance, and Yogita Shanbhag has been appointed Vice-President, Human Resources. These appointments build on recent senior leadership additions.

As VP, Business Finance, Kapooria will lead business finance across all categories at Flipkart, partnering closely with business teams to drive financial discipline, operational excellence, and sustainable growth, the company said.

Kapooria brings deep institutional knowledge and extensive experience in business finance and strategic leadership. A Chartered Accountant with over 19 years of experience, Kapooria has also held senior leadership positions at organisations, including OYO, Yum! Brands, and most recently, Blinkit, where he served as CFO.

In her role as VP, HR, Yogita will lead the Human Resources function for the OneTech Business Unit, critical to Flipkart's technology foundation and innovation focus. With over 20 years of experience at Juniper Networks and Wipro, Yogita most-recently scaled Juniper's India operations into its largest global excellence centre.

'I-T returns in 2026-27 to be governed by old rules'

New rules, forms to be notified by 1st week of March: Sources

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Income tax returns to be filed in the upcoming assessment year 2026-27 will continue to be governed by the old Income Tax Act, 1961, even though the new Act will come into effect from April 1, official sources said.

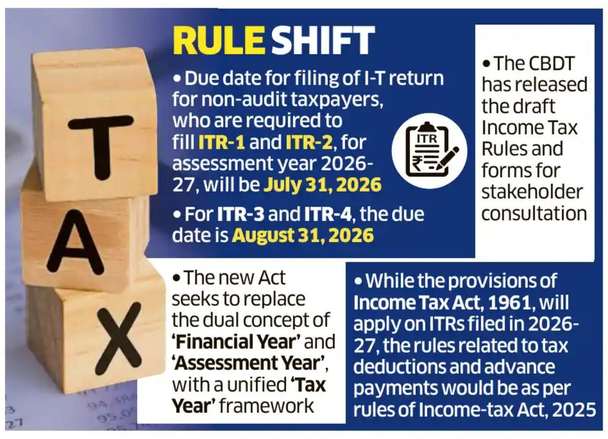
The due date for filing of income tax return for non-audit taxpayers, who are required to fill ITR-1 and ITR-2, for assessment year 2026-27, will be July 31, 2026. For ITR-3 and ITR-4, the due date is August 31.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the Union Budget earlier this month that the Income-tax Act, 2025, will come into effect from April 1, 2026.

The new Act, which received the assent of the President in August 2025, seeks to replace the dual concept of "Financial Year" and "Assessment Year", with a unified "Tax Year" framework. The "Tax Year" serves dual purposes: it represents both the period during which income is earned and the reference point for the applicable tax rates and assessment procedures.

According to a source from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the upcoming income tax returns to be filed in 2026-27 will be as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act 1961, which has the concept of Assessment Year.

"In 2026-27, there will be interplay of both the old and the new rules," said an official requesting anonimity.


TAX
RULE SHIFT
• Due date for filing of I-T return for non-audit taxpayers, who are required to fill ITR-1 and ITR-2, for assessment year 2026-27, will be July 31, 2026
• For ITR-3 and ITR-4, the due date is August 31, 2026
• The CBDT has released the draft Income Tax Rules and forms for stakeholder consultation
• The new Act seeks to replace the dual concept of 'Financial Year' and 'Assessment Year', with a unified 'Tax Year' framework
• While the provisions of Income Tax Act, 1961, will apply on ITRs filed in 2026-27, the rules related to tax deductions and advance payments would be as per rules of Income-tax Act, 2025

While the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961, will apply on the ITRs filed in 2026-27, the rules related to tax deductions and advance payments would be as per the rules of the Income-tax Act, 2025.

According to the official, the Income Tax Department is likely to notify the Income Tax Rules, 2026, and the accompanying forms in the first week of March.

The CBDT has released the draft Income Tax Rules and forms for stakeholder consultation. The Income Tax Department has uploaded the draft documents to its official website.

"Stakeholders are encouraged to study the same and make suggestions, which will be compiled and considered for review before final notification," the Ministry of Finance said in a statement.

The CBDT has invited inputs and suggestions from stakeholders in four categories: simplification of language, reduction of litigation, reduction of compliance burden and identification of redundant/obsolete rules & forms.

A CBDT source claimed that the draft Income-tax Rules and related Forms have been prepared after broad-based consultation to align with the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 2025.

"The notification is likely to come by the end of this month or the first week of March," the source said.

The new income tax forms will be simpler and will come with pre-filled information. With linking of PAN, Aadhaar and bank accounts, the majority of information related to taxpayers' income and transactions is already with the Income Tax Department. "All the available data will come pre-filled," the source said.

Moody's pegs India's GDP growth at 6.4% in FY27

Fastest among G20, driven by domestic consumption

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Global ratings agency Moody's on Monday said India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is projected to grow by 6.4% in 2026-27, the fastest expansion among the G20 member nations, driven by strong domestic consumption and policy reforms.

"The rationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in September 2025 and an earlier increase in personal income tax thresholds will help improve affordability for consumers and support consumption-led growth," Moody's said in its latest edition of banking system outlook report.

The rating agency noted that India's GDP growth in the 2026-27 financial year would be better than all G20 member countries that include the major economies like the United States, China, Germany and Brazil.

Moody's projection is lower than the government's estimate, which has been projected in the Economic Survey in the range of 6.8-7.2%.

As per the first advance estimates of GDP released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) last month, India's economy is projected to grow at 7.4% in the current financial year. India's GDP growth stood at 6.5% in 2024-25.

On India's financial sector, Moody's said asset quality across banks was expected to remain resilient during 2026-27, although some stress is expected among Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The rating agency noted that the banks have adequate buffers to absorb potential loan losses.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed Lok Sabha that gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio fell to 2.15% as at the end of September, 2025.

The NPAs as a percentage of gross loans and advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), for domestic operations, have been continuously declining during the last eight financial years, the minister said in written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

Gross NPAs of public sector banks stood at 2.50%, private sector banks at 1.73%, and foreign banks at 0.80%.

Velocity unveils Rs 100-cr spend to scale AI-led shipping platform

BENGALURU, DHNS: E-commerce enablement platform Velocity on Monday announced a Rs 100-crore investment to scale Velocity Shipping (formerly Shipfast). The investment will be deployed over the next two years and will be funded entirely through internal cash reserves and revenues from Velocity's core businesses, it said.

The investment will be directed toward strategic hiring, product development, and AI-led innovation across the logistics value-chain. Velocity plans to double its shipping team and has already made senior hires from NimbusPost, Pickrr, Delhivery and Shiprocket as it strengthens its shipping and last-mile capabilities. The company is also targeting a 5x increase in monthly shipping volumes in CY26.

Since launch in 2025, Velocity Shipping has seen strong adoption, with over 900 brands onboarded so far and the platform is currently witnessing 70% month-on-month growth in order volumes and now contributes nearly 40% of Velocity's overall revenues.

"We started Velocity by solving one of the biggest bottlenecks for digital-first brands: access to capital. As we worked closely with thousands of founders, it became clear that logistics and fulfilment were equally critical constraints to growth, but existing solutions needed to evolve to better support digital-first brands," said Velocity Co-Founder and CEO Abhiroop Medhekar.

The platform works with multiple third-party logistics partners, including Delhivery, Ekart, Amazon, Blue Dart, Blitz, Pikndel and XpressBees, allowing brands to access the courier networks across regions through a single interface and serves over 19,000 pincodes pan-India.

Velocity Co-founders (from left) Abhiroop Medhekar, Atul Khichariya and Saurav Swaroop.

Silver surges 6% on global trends

NEW DELHI, PTI: Silver prices climbed more than 6% to Rs 2.72 lakh per kg in Delhi on Monday, while gold rose nearly 1% to Rs 1.58 lakh per 10 grams, driven by firm global trends and a weaker US dollar.

The white metal climbed Rs 17,000, or 6.66% to Rs 2,72,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes), from Friday's closing level of Rs 2,55,000 per kg. In addition, gold of 99.9% purity increased Rs 1,300, or 0.83% to Rs 1,58,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had closed at Rs 1,57,200 per 10 grams in the previous session. "The dollar index is trading lower by almost 0.30% at 97 level, offering support to bullion prices," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst—Commodities at HDFC Securities said.

He added that global macro uncertainty and US President Donald Trump's unpredictable rhetoric on geopolitical and tariff-related issues underpin safe-haven demand for precious metals.

Tata Motors rolls out first JLR car from TN facility

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Homegrown Tata Motors on Monday rolled out the first car, Range Rover Evoque, belonging to the luxury Jaguar Land Rover portfolio from its greenfield factory in Tamil Nadu's Ranipet district, which was built in a record 16 months.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin drove the first car manufactured from the facility inside an industrial estate owned by the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) in Panapakkam, 90 km from here, along with Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran.

The development further cements Tamil Nadu's position as the leader in the automotive sector with two car manufacturing units being thrown open in just six months – Vietnamese electric carmaker VinFast's first India facility was inaugurated in Thoothukudi in July 2025. The state is already home to Hyundai, Ford, Renault-Nissan, and BMW.

Tata Motors-JLR will start with CKD (Completely Knocked Down) assembly operations at the Panapakkam facility, which will take 5-7 years to be fully-operational. While Range Rover Evoque, a compact SUV whose price starts at Rs 65 lakh (ex-showroom) in the Indian market, will be the first vehicle to be produced from here, the company will roll out other models as well, in the coming months.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran at the inauguration of the Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Jaguar Land Rover manufacturing facility in Panapakkam, Ranipet district, on Monday. PTI

The inauguration of the factory is a significant development as it boosts the Make in India, For the World programme and allows manufacturing of JLR vehicles from scratch. Such vehicles are currently being assembled at Tata Motors' facility in Pune.

Coming up over 480 acres at a cost of Rs 9,000 crore, the unit will manufacture products from both Tata Motors and JLR, and both conventional and electric vehicles for domestic and export markets. The plant is expected to create about 5,000 jobs with Industries Minister TRB Raaja saying that Tata-JLR will also bring its suppliers to Panapakkam, which will help create an ecosystem generating more employment opportunities.

"The plant's production capability is 3 lakh vehicles annually, and this will probably be the beginning for us to produce high-end vehicles, not only in terms of JLR products, but also products with the latest technologies. Over the next five years, we will bring other models and also new technologies," Chandrasekaran said.

He added that the FTAs signed with the UK, the UAE, and the EU and the trade pact with the US will offer "tremendous opportunities" to Indian companies.

Sensex reclaims 84k, Nifty soars near 26k amid trade deal sentiment

MUMBAI, PTI: Sensex and Nifty extended their gains for the second straight session on Monday, driven by robust buying across all segments after the India-US trade deal, putting an end to tariff uncertainties.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 485.35 points (0.58%), to close at 84,065.75. During the day, the benchmark surged 734.28 points (0.87%), to hit an intraday high of 84,314.68. The 50-share NSE Nifty appreciated by 173.60 points (0.68%), to settle at 25,867.30. During the session, the index climbed 228.55 points (0.88%), to hit a high of 25,922.25.

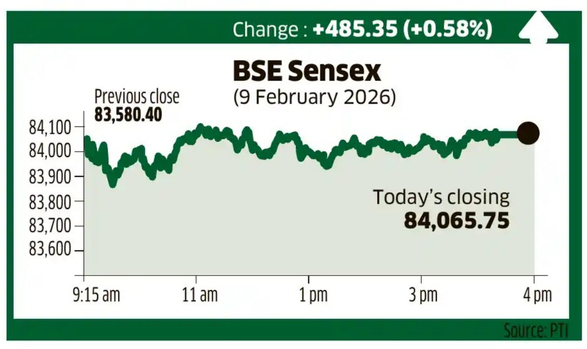
Among the 30-share constituents, SBI, Titan, UltraTech Cement, Tata Steel, Eternal, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndiGo, Trent, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Sun Pharmaceuticals, and Asian Paints were the gainers. PowerGrid, NTPC, ITC, ICICI Bank, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki India and Axis Bank were the laggards.

"Positive signals from the trade deal, coupled with the return of FIIs, fuelled a risk-on sentiment in the market. Investors are closely watching upcoming results, with PSU banks delivering stronger-than-anticipated performance, helping the PSU bank index outperform," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said. He added that an accumulation strategy was observed in consumer durables and real estate stocks, following the recent correction, driven by expectations of a demand revival.

On the BSE, the Smallcap Select index rose 2.31%, while Midcap Select index went up 1.27%.

Among sectoral indices, PSU Bank climbed the most by 2.83%, followed by Consumer Durables (2.76%), Realty (2.64%), and Commodities (2.06%). While Industrials and Telecommunication rose by 1.94% each, Capital Goods increased 1.89%, Consumer Discretionary gained 1.73%, and Metal went up by 1.54%.

On Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 266.47 points to settle at 83,580.40, while the NSE Nifty climbed 50.90 points to end at 25,693.70.



India remains priority growth market for South African Tourism

BENGALURU, DHNS: South African Tourism on Monday completed the Bengaluru leg of its Annual India Roadshow, continuing its focused engagement with the Indian travel trade and reinforcing the latter's growing importance as a key source market for South Africa.

Featuring over 40 exhibitors presenting a diverse range of offerings, the roadshow had over 235 Indian travel trade agents in Bengaluru participating.

"India continues to be a priority growth market for South African Tourism, driven by strong interest across family travel, experiential holidays, and premium travel. Indian travellers today are also planning differently, using AI-powered tools to research and customise their trips, travelling more occasionally, and showing a growing willingness to explore destinations beyond traditional favourites," said Mitalee Karmarkar, Marketing and Communications Manager (MEISEA), South African Tourism.

She added, "Bengaluru has firmly established itself as one of South Africa's key source markets in India. Travellers from the city are digitally-savvy, experience-driven, and increasingly confident in exploring long-haul destinations."

Airlines' cumulative loss at Rs 5,289.73 cr last FY

NEW DELHI, PTI: The cumulative loss of Indian airlines stood at Rs 5,289.73 crore in the last financial year, with Air India Group alone accounting for Rs 9,808.12 crore of the total loss, according to official data.

Out of the 11 operators, four had reported profit — IndiGo, Blue Dart, Star Air and IndiaOne Air.

The data was provided as part of a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on Monday by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol.

In 2024-25, Air India and Air India Express recorded a loss of Rs 3,975.75 crore and Rs 5,832.37 crore, respectively

while Akasa Air reported a loss of Rs 1,986.25 crore.

State-owned Alliance Air's loss was at Rs 691.12 crore and that of SpiceJet stood at Rs 55.67 crore in the last fiscal.

Other loss-making operators were Fly91 (Rs 67.65 crore) and Quikjet Cargo (Rs 1.34 crore).

IndiGo raked in a profit of Rs 7,253.30 crore and other profitable entities were Star Air (Rs 68.75 crore), Blue Dart (Rs 0.71 crore) and IndiaOne Air (Rs 0.33 crore).

All these figures are after considering extraordinary items.

In the reply to CPI-M member John Brittas, the Union minister also said that in a deregulated aviation market, airfares are neither fixed nor regulated by the government and are determined by airlines based on demand-supply dynamics and other commercial considerations.

GSK Pharma net profit up 29%

NEW DELHI, PTI:

GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals on Monday posted 29% increase in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 296 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2025.

The drugmaker reported a profit after tax of Rs 230 crore for the October-December period of last fiscal.

Revenue from operations rose to Rs 1,041 crore from Rs 949 crore in the year-ago period, GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

MakeMyTrip, Minor Hotels partner

MUMBAI, DHNS: MakeMyTrip has entered into a strategic partnership with global hospitality group, Minor Hotels, as part of its broader strategy to expand its direct international hotel inventory.

Minor Hotels has a portfolio of over 560 properties worldwide.

The platform has increasingly emerged as a go-to destination for Indian travellers booking international hotels. In the last year, MakeMyTrip sold over 77,900 unique hotels across more than 4,350 cities in 192 countries.

The number of unique hotels sold in 2025 grew by 17%, compared to 2024. Notably, nearly a third of these bookings were in the premium category, with an average room-night fare exceeding Rs 15,000.

With this announcement, Indian travellers will gain access to premium and luxury international stays across globally recognised brands from the Minor Hotels portfolio. The collaboration also broadens international stay options for Indian travellers across city hotels and resort destinations in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

BIG BREW

B'luru to host India Int'l Coffee Festival from Feb 12-14

BENGALURU, DHNS

The India International Coffee Festival (IICF) is set to be held in Bengaluru from February 12-14. The event, touted as the largest-ever international coffee festival in the country, is being organised by Specialty Coffee Association (SCAI) with the support from the Coffee Board of India and presented by Nescafe, Nestle India.

It is expected to attract over 20,000 visitors from India, Germany, Japan, and many other countries. They include coffee growers, processors, roasters, exporters, equipment manufacturers, cafe brands, baristas, and consumers, said Kurma Rao, CEO and Secretary, Coffee Board of India.

Talking to reporters, he said, "Indian coffee is gaining recognition for its quality and diversity. Platforms such as IICF play an important role in connecting producers with markets, encouraging best practices, and supporting the long-term growth of both domestic and global markets."

The 2026 edition of IICF will also host the National Coffee Championships, where winners from regional rounds will earn the opportunity to represent India at international competitions, reinforcing India's presence on the global coffee stage, he said.

Hamsini Appadurai, President, SCAI, said India's coffee sector is steadily moving from a commodity-led approach to a quality- and experience-driven market. "This edition of IICF reflects that shift with greater scale, deeper business engagement, and a strong focus on showcasing the diversity and potential of Indian coffee across domestic and global markets," she said.

Structured around a farm-to-cup framework, the festival offers insights into production, processing, roasting, and brewing through curated tastings, workshops, and cupping sessions. These experiences highlight regional coffee profiles, processing techniques, and flavour development, encouraging informed consumption and a deeper appreciation for quality and traceability.

The festival will be held at Chamara Vajra, Jayamahal Palace.

SCAI is a non-profit organisation of like-minded and passionate coffee growers with the sole intention of spreading the specialty coffee culture in India and letting the world know about the specialty coffees available in India.

Dinesh, Tanmay take Vivekanagar Cricketers home

BENGALURU, DHNS: Dinesh S (56) and Tanmay Muduli (52 n.o.) struck half-centuries in Vivekanagar Cricketers' nine-wicket win over Sri Jayachamarajendra Cricket Club on a low-scoring day in KSCA Group I, V Division league cum knockout tournament for the JB Mallaradhya Shield.

LOCAL CRICKET

The duo took Vivekanagar to 135/1 in 15 overs after their bowlers fired in unison to bowl out Jayachamarajendra for 132 in 45.3 overs. Manu AG stood out among Vivekanagar bowlers with a spell of 3/15.

Brief scores: Sri Jayachamarajendra CC: 132 all out in 45.3 overs (Dhruv Vasu 26; Manu AG 3-15, Samkrupakaran N 2-25, Arjun RV 2-24, Inbarasaganan Bharathi 2-36) lt to Vivekanagar Cricketers: 135/1 in 15 overs (Dinesh S 56, Tanmay Muduli 52 n.o.).

Super CC: 143 all out in 42.5 overs (Zainul Abideen 39 n.o., Mohammad Kaif 28; Sharath KM 4-25, Madhusudan E 3-29) lt to National Cricketers: 144/8 in 35 overs (Apurva Kale 29, R Mahesh Reddy 26, Amit Verma 25 n.o.; Zainul Abideen 4-40, Muniraju K 2-27, Gouspeer 2-32).

Hosakote CC: 110 all out in 28.4 overs (Jadav Mahesh 4-34, Pradeep Tamrakar 3-25) lt to City Cricketers (2): 111/6 in 26.3 overs (Kiran K 2-28, Anjan KT 2-21).

Star Cricketers XI: 133 all out in 29.3 overs (Sandeep Ganganna 56 n.o.; C Abilash 4-39, Saleem Ali 3-8) lt to Young Cricketers (1): 135/5 in 28.5 overs (Monik R 36 n.o., Siddarth Kashyap 33, Asit Kumar 32; Janardhan R 2-36, Murugan 2-6).

Angelo wins main event

DELHI RESULTS

Angelo, from the stables of S Nawab and ridden by AS Peter, won the Mahalakshmi Plate, the feature event of the Delhi races on Monday.

1. Gateway Of India Plate - 1100M: Ashwa Sultan (Mrs Anita Chauhan) AS Peter 1; Meridia (Arjun) 2; Divit (Jai Parkash) 3; Master Causeway (Riazuddin) 4; Wb: 2, 4-1/4L, Nk. T: 1:06.91. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Meridia.

2. Juhu Beach Plate (Div I) - 1100M: Tequila (Harisharan Devgan) Aasif Khan 1; MasterMultitude (Faizan Khan) 2; Heer (Vishal Shivhare) 3; Party Dreams (Vishal) 4; Wb: 1/2, 4-1/4, 1/2L. T: 1:05.99. TB: VS Parmar. Fav: Master Multitude.

3. Juhu Beach Plate - 1100M: Tomorrows Dreams (Zulfiqar Khan) Angad 1; Ashwa Wazeer (Vishal Shivhare) 2; Senor (Rakesh) 3; Eastern Crown (Aasif Khan) 4; Wb: 3, 3/4, 1/2L. 1:06.55. TB: Zulfiqar Khan. Fav: Tomorrows Dreams.

4. Mahalakshmi Plate - 1600M: Angelo (Ravinder Pal Singh) AS Peter 1; Eyes On The Prize (Vishal Shivhare) 2; Rocket Rod (Shivam) 3; Treasure (Dhanu Deora) 4; Not Run: Hukamori. Wb: 11-1/2, Nk, 1-3/4L. T: 1:37.26. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Angelo.

5. Mumbadevi Plate - 1600M: Jet Space (Ajay Kumar) Vishal Shivhare 1;Missey Boy (Aasif Khan) 2; Dubai Falcon (Akash Rajput) 3; Divya Shakti (Parvesh) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, Hd, 1-1/4L. T: 1:40.17. TB: Zulfiqar Khan. Fav: Dubai Falcon.

6. Marine Drive Plate - 1000M: Juggad (Vijay Babbar) Arjun 1; Royal Baby (Ankit Pal) 2; Alex (Shekhawat) 3; Bay Of Biscay (Faizan Khan) 4; Not Run: Master Bomber & Super Speed. Wb: 3-1/2, 3/4L, Hd. T: 1-00.72. TB: Irfan Ali. Fav: Juggad.

Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 52w; 18, 12, 21p; Fc: Rs 107; Q: Rs 45; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 310 & 185; Ex: Rs 3,585 & 1,382.
II race: Rs 22w; 11, 12, 103p; Fc: Rs 40; Q: Rs 24; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 323; Tri: Rs 1,523 & 2,351; Ex: Rs 14,177 & 4,050.
III race: Rs 18w; 12, 21, 40p; Fc: Rs 96; Q: Rs 57; Shp: Rs 40; Thp: Rs 78; Tri: Rs 1,273 & 866; Ex: Rs 9,275 & 3,975.
IV race: Rs 16w; 13, 23, 13p; Fc: Rs 224; Q: Rs 190; Shp: Rs 78; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 635 & 144; Ex: Rs 1,610 & 811.
V race: Rs 47w; 17, 22, 13p; Fc: Rs 738; Q: Rs 566; Shp: Rs 99; Thp: Rs 62; Tri: Rs 3,021 & 863; Ex: Rs 40,692 (c/o).
VI race: Rs 20w; 12, 16, 93p; Fc: Rs 309; Q: Rs 168; Shp: Rs 40; Thp: Rs 220; Tri: Rs 3,815 & 4,088; Ex: Rs 16,096 & 7,898.
First Jackpot: Rs 724 (295). **Runner-up:** Rs 189 (483). **Treble:** Rs 147 (565).

Jain brace turns decisive for BTM

BENGALURU, DHNS: BTM FC kept pressure on table-toppers Stride Sports FC as Nakshtra Jain's first-half brace (23rd and 41st minutes) helped the third-placed side rally to a 2-1 win over FC Deccan at the BFS here on Monday.

With the victory, BTM (23 points from 11 matches) are within two points of Stride, having played a match more.

Results: A Division: BTM FC: 2 (Nakshatra Jain 23rd P, 41st) bt FC Deccan: 1 (LT Lowly 2nd P); AGORC FC: 2 (Shamanth D 85th, 88th) bt Jawahar Union FC: 0.
B Division: Group A: Bangalore Warriors: 6 (D Akash 4th, 15th, 40th, 60th, Magesh 28th, Sham Jose 51st) bt MD Sporting: 0.
Group B: Infinite Belagavi: 4 (Atharva Bidiye 17th, Koushik Patil 48th, 73rd, Parth Desurkar 80th) bt William FC: 0.

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY

KLassy Rahul tames Mumbai

Smaran hits unbeaten 83 as Karnataka set up U'khand semis

G KRISHNAN
MUMBAI

Karnataka are now just two wins away from clinching their ninth Ranji Trophy title.

In only the second match with Devdutt Padikkal as captain, Karnataka registered a convincing four-wicket win with a day to spare against Mumbai at the MCA-BKC ground here, setting up a semifinal showdown against Uttarakhand in Dehradun from February 15.

The architect of Karnataka's win, which was accomplished with its share of drama on the fourth day on Monday, was the Test opener KL Rahul. He shouldered the responsibility of seeing Karnataka through with a stroke-filled 130 (182b, 14x4, 1x6). He found a perfect ally in the left-handed Ravichandran Smaran (83 not out, 123b, 11x4).

Smaran dealt in boundaries, pulling and driving attractively, and rarely did he play a false stroke. The 22-year-old Smaran kept his eyes on the ball, was solid in defence and did not spare the short deliveries, pulling effectively and driving handsomely on the off-side.

Smaran's flurry of boundaries early in his stay eased the pressure on Rahul as the duo raised 147 for the fourth wicket in only 159 deliveries.

Karnataka achieved victory, but not without the match going through its ebbs and flows. Resuming at the overnight 113/2, needing 212 more to win, Karnataka lost the unsettled Karun Nair leg before to medium-pacer Shardul Thakur in the day's second over.

The onus was on the fourth-wicket pair of Rahul and Smaran, as those who followed were the inexperienced wicketkeeper Kruthik Krishna and the bowling all-rounders. Mumbai attacked through their medium-pacers Thakur and Tushar Deshpande after Mohit Avasthi proved ineffective, going for 18 runs in two overs. Thakur and Deshpande bowled a wicket-to-wicket line initially, but Rahul and Smaran were equally effective.

Thakur and Deshpande also employed the short-ball weapon, but that did not unsettle the right-left duo. Rahul had luck on his side when he edged Thakur behind, where first slip Yashasvi Jaiswal was waiting to catch it. But, to Jaiswal's disbelief, Siddhesh Lad from second slip thrust his left hand in front of Jaiswal, dropping Rahul on 75. He went on to score his 24th first-class century, and eighth for Karnataka.

While it was expected that Karnataka would win comfortably post lunch, at which stage they needed 60 more with seven wickets in hand. They faced tense moments when they lost three wickets in the space of 7.2 overs, starting with Rahul off the third delivery on resumption.

Employing a barrage of short deliveries as their last attempt at Karnataka, Deshpande removed Rahul, attempting a one-handed hook and ending up in the hands of Yashasvi Jaiswal, who stretched to take a fine catch, at short third man.

Shreyas Gopal, too, was a victim of the bouncer, nicking Deshpande behind, while Kruthik Krishna stretched so much forward to defend off-spinner Tanush Kotian that he couldn't drag his back foot in time and was stumped by Akash Anand.

However, Anand was guilty of missing another stumping chance when Smaran was on 58 and Lad another chance, this time of Vidyadhar at long-off.

Even as Smaran shouldered the responsibility after Rahul's dismissal, Vidyadhar (31 not out, 30b, 3x4, 1x6) batted hurriedly, his sweep off Shams Mulani sealing the game for the visitors half-an-hour before the tea interval.

Karnataka's K L Rahul (left) celebrates after bringing up his match-winning century against Mumbai on the fourth and penultimate day of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal in Mumbai on Monday. RIGHT: R Smaran embraces Vidyadhar Patil, who scored the winning runs. PHOTOS/ PRAKASH PARSEKAR

SCORE BOARD

MUMBAI (I innings): 120
KARNATAKA (I innings): 173
MUMBAI (II innings): 377
KARNATAKA (II innings, O/n: 113/2): Mayank Agarwal c Avasthi b Thakur 3, KL Rahul c Jaiswal b Deshpande 130, Devdutt Padikkal c Jaiswal b Kotian 39, Karun Nair lbw b Thakur 13, Ravichandran Smaran (not out) 83, Shreyas Gopal c Anand b Deshpande 1, Kruthik Krishna st Anand b Kotian 2, Vidyadhar Patil (not out) 31. Extras (B-15, LB-3, W-1, NB-4) 23.
TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 73.4 overs) 325.
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-96, 3-119, 4-266, 5-268, 6-285.
Bowling: Shardul Thakur 10-1-55-2, Mohit Avasthi 7-0-36-0, Shams Mulani 14.4-0-64-0, Tushar Deshpande 18-2-67-2, Tanush Kotian 21-2-77-2, Musheer Khan 3-0-8-0.
Result: Karnataka won by 4 wkts; Next match (semifinal): vs Uttarakhand (From 15-19, Dehradun)
Other quarterfinals: Brief scores:
At Indore: Jammu & Kashmir: 194 & 248 all out bt Madhya Pradesh: 152 all out & (O/n: 87/5): 234 all out in 68.3 overs (Himanshu Mantri 31, Shubham Sharma 32, Saransh Jain 64; Auqib Nabi 5-70, Abid Mushtaq 3-49).
At Kolkata: Andhra: 295 & 64/3 in 24 overs vs Bengal: (O/n: 418/6): 629 all out in 199.1 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 299, Sumanta Gupta 81, Habib Gandhi 95, Mohammed Shami 53; KV Sasikanth 2-59, Saurabh Kumar 2-124, Shaik Rasheed 4-63).

Great feeling to beat Mumbai in Mumbai: Smaran

G KRISHNAN
MUMBAI

Ever since making his Ranji Trophy debut for Karnataka in 2024-25, R Smaran has grown from strength to strength. He has been one of the key performers for Karnataka in their quest for their ninth Ranji Trophy this season.

He came to Mumbai for the quarterfinal as the second-highest run-getter in his team behind Karun Nair. After failing to score in the first innings, Smaran had a point to prove in the second, and he blossomed in the company of the established KL Rahul, scoring 83 n.o. and guiding Karnataka to the semifinals.

He left Mumbai for home as the team's highest scorer this season, 688 runs at 86.00, including two hundreds and three fifties.

"It's a great feeling beating Mumbai in Mumbai. It is always a tough task for any team, especially in a quarterfinal game, and the win makes it even more worthy. I'm glad we got a win and are looking forward to the semifinals."

It was an education for Smaran to bat alongside Rahul and even take the pressure off him by scoring boundaries and pushing the opposition on the back foot.

The 22-year-old Bengalurean said, "It's a privilege for all of us that he's playing the Ranji Trophy games with us. He's played a lot of Test matches for India, and he has tremendous experience. He kept guiding me and kept telling me what shots were on and how I could pace my game. It was great batting with him and I'm looking forward to many more innings with him."

Smaran debuted under Mayank Agarwal, but it is Devdutt Padikkal, who has been handed over the captaincy recently. Under Padikkal, Karnataka have a 100% win record, winning against Punjab by five wickets and here in Mumbai by four wickets.

Smaran said: "Mayank also did very well. As captain in the first six games, he led us to qualify. Devdutt is a very calm guy under pressure. His nature is very calm. Strategically, he also made the right moves. Mayank and Dev have played for the country and know what it takes to win championships. Not much of a change playing under the two captains. I'm glad that Dev has got it now. I'm sure that he will carry forward Karnataka's legacy."

Bhaker settles for silver in nail-biter, Esha takes bronze

Rhythm joins Indian duo for team gold in women's 25m pistol; Naamya takes jr title

NEW DELHI, PTI

Olympic double bronze-medallist Manu Bhaker came agonisingly close to winning a gold, missing out by a whisker in a tense shoot-off as she clinched a silver in 25m pistol event, while fellow Indian Esha Singh claimed a bronze at the Asian Championship here on Monday.

In one of the most closely-contested events of this edition of the continental championship, both gold medallist Nguyen Thuy Trang and Manu shot an identical 35 in the final, forcing a shoot-off, where the Vietnamese held sway.

In fact, the final turned out to be a battle of nerves, with former Asian air pistol champion Trang, Manu, Esha, and Olympian Rhythm Sangwan all tightly packed and in contention for the top spot.

Esha started with a perfect five in the first series while Manu and Trang hit four. All three Indian shooters were trading the medal positions after each series but a perfect five in the sixth series saw the Vietnamese take a two-point lead.

Manu and Esha capitalised on Trang's poor seventh series, where she managed to hit only one target, closing the gap.

Esha, who had been leading with a score of 30 at the end of the eighth series, missed all her shots in the ninth and had to settle for the bronze medal.

The trio of Esha, Manu, and Sangwan claimed the team gold with a combined total of 1,751, followed by Chinese Taipei with 1,735 and Vietnam with 1,729.

In the 25m pistol junior finals, Naamya Kapoor survived a tense shoot-off to clinch the gold. She matched Indonesia's Rihadatul Asyifa with 29 shots in regulation and then held her nerve in the shoot-off.

Manu Bhaker (left) and Esha Singh (right) missed out on gold in a tense battle with Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy Trang at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championships. NRAI

Karnataka stamp authority with 197-run victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: After a disappointing draw in Alur against Chandigarh, Karnataka posted a thumping 197-run win over hosts Uttarakhand on the final day of their Col CK Nayudu Elite Group D game at the Kaushiki Cricket Ground in Ramnagar on Monday.

With the much-needed victory, Karnataka now sit third on the table with 51 points, behind toppers Chhattisgarh (60 points) and Uttar Pradesh (52). Coming into the fourth day, the visitors needed just three wickets to win.

Resuming from their overnight score of 122/7, Uttarakhand put on a brilliant lower-order fight and delayed the inevitable, adding 133 runs with Ishagra Jagoori (81) and Devansh (45) stitching a 103-run stand.

They eventually ran out of gas and were bowled out for 255 in 61.3 overs.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 244 all out & 368/8 decl bt Uttarakhand: 160 all out & (O/n: 122/7): 255 all out in 61.3 overs (Aditya Naithani 31; Ishagra Jagoori 88, Jaskaran 27, Devansh 45, Manvanth Kumar L 3-62, Samit Dravid 2-39, Hardik Raj 3-66, Shashi Kumar K 2-24). **Karnataka's next match:** Himachal Pradesh (Feb 13).

Gremaud ends Gu's treble hopes

LIVIGNO (ITALY), AFP

Swiss freeski star Mathilde Gremaud ended Eileen Gu's hopes of a historic Winter Olympics golden treble on Monday, successfully defending her slopestyle crown at Livigno Snow Park.

In a repeat of the result from the 2022 Beijing Games, Gremaud scored 86.96 in a stunning second run to edge out China's Gu, whose best total in her three runs was 86.58.

Canada's Megan Oldham took bronze. Gu seized control of the competition on her first run, punching the air after her 86.58 on the obstacle-filled course. Gremaud, skiing last in the field, responded with 83.60 as the two favourites set a standard their rivals could not match.

Gu, dressed in her white suit featuring Chinese dragon motifs, fluffed her second run, making a mistake on the first rail, mustering just 23.00 points.

Gremaud, a day after her 26th birthday, then stepped up in spectacular style to grab the lead with a score of 86.96, heaping the pressure on Gu.

Swizerland's Mathilde Gremaud in action during the women's freeski slopestyle event in Livigno, Italy. REUTERS

Puducherry tail denies Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka narrowly missed a chance to grab a second victory in the league stage of the U-14 Boys South Zone Tournament as Puducherry saw out the final day of the match with two wickets to spare in their second innings at the Vizzy Stadium in Vizianagaram.

Puducherry, who were 158 all out on Day 1, ended their second innings at 175/8 in 70 overs, taking a 27-run lead, despite pressure from Karnataka bowlers Samrat Aditya (3/63) and Cheran Tej Raju (2/5).

Earlier, Pavadeep Bharadakane's 100-ball 142, after a double ton in last match, took Karnataka to 306/4 declared in 38 overs.

Brief scores: Puducherry: 158 all out in 69.4 overs (Sanjay S 61; Samrat Aditya P 3-34, Hannan Zaki Ahmed 2-35) & 175/8 in 70 overs (Akshay A 40, Naraindra 54; Samrat Aditya P 3-63, Cheran Tej Raju 2-5, Krishna 2-44) drew with Karnataka: 306/4 decl in 38 overs (Pavandeep R Bharadakane 142, Prabhav Pydah 88 n.o., Hannan Zaki Ahmed 30).

Indian tennis hopes set to rejuvenate from Dhakshin

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sumit Nagal and Suresh Ekka, with arms around each other's shoulders, danced to the *tamate* beats. A few steps away, Ekka's son -- Dhakshineswar Suresh -- happily obliged every stranger's handshake, selfie and autograph requests. Skipper Rohit Rajpal's eyes welled with tears of joy, Yuki Bhambri was locked in a tight embrace with Karan Singh, and the recently-retired Rohan Bopanna walked around with pride as the rest of the players and support staff celebrated with family, friends and fans.

Such scenes of ecstasy and jubilation at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium kept Cubbon Park awake past its bedtime at 11 pm under a starry Sunday night. This was at the end of an eight-hour duel in which the 33rd-ranked India stunned the world No. 6 side and 2024 runners-up - the Netherlands - in their Davis Cup Qualifiers Round 1 tie here in front of a home crowd that refused to stop believing in their team over the weekend.

Amid this rare euphoria in Indian tennis, Dhakshineswar -- the main architect of the three wins that gave India a thrilling 3-2 victory -- remained humble. And, perhaps, this was the reason why the Indian team placed so much faith in the 25-year-old, who is known to stay unperturbed by the outside noise or expectations.

Of course, the big serves, backed up by leg work for tactful groundstrokes and deft hands for volleying, worked in his favour. But it was his ability to stay calm and trust himself during crunch situations against higher-ranked opponents in a high-stakes team game that played equal part in him reeling off three wins as India recorded one of their most memorable Davis Cup victories.

The last time an Indian notched up such a hat-trick - two singles and a doubles - in a single tie was Leander Paes -- former doubles specialist with 18 Grand Slam titles -- during India's 3-2 away win against New Zealand in 2004.

This time it was a 465th-ranked Dhakshineswar winning over world No. 88 Jesper De Jong in the second singles on Saturday which was his first against a top-100 player. The 6-feet-6 Dindigul (in Tamil Nadu) man then partnered Bhambri to score an important victory over Sander Arends and David Pel before defeating wolrd No. 162 Guy Den Ouden in straight sets without facing a single breakpoint in the fifth and final reverse singles.

"I've done this before a lot of times (in collegiate tennis), but then playing here... Three full sets for three hours and then coming back and doing the same, it's tough on the body. I just wanted to give it out there for India and for myself," said Dhakshineswar, a West Forest University student in the USA, in the post-match presser on Sunday.

As for the Dutch, flying into the city without their top two players -- Tallon Griekspoor (world No. 29) and Botic van de Zandschulp (67) -- will surely have them questioning their tactics. The visitors might have allowed some complacency to creep in after learning about the injury to India's top player Nagal. Were they also deceived by Dhakshineswar's world ranking, which is in the 400s? Finally, the role the passionate crowd played in inspiring the home boys came out of the syllabus.

The Indian team members will now split to pursue their own careers before they regroup for Qualifiers round 2 where South Korea hosts India in September.

Until then, this special weekend will be savoured by Indian tennis fans for a long time to come with a renewed hope of the game's rejuvenation as Dhakshineswar leads the rise of a new set of players.

Indian players celebrate after Dhakshineswar Suresh (on ground) won the fifth and deciding rubber against the Dutch in their Davis Cup Qualifiers Round 1 tie at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

India lose two BWF events

KUALA LUMPUR, PTI: The India Open retained its Super 750 status despite the organisational issues but the Syed Modi International was downgraded to Super 100 as India saw its share of events reduced from four to two in the BWF's revamped schedule announced on Monday. The events axed are Super 100 events in Guwahati and Odisha.

Kohli, Rohit demoted to grade B as BCCI scraps A+ category

Rahul in grade B, Prasidh in C; Jemimah climbs to A

NEW DELHI, PTI

Senior superstars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were on expected lines downgraded to group B of the latest annual central contract awarded by the BCCI which also abolished the prevailing A+ category carrying a retainership fee of Rs 7 crore.

The BCCI on Monday awarded central contract to 30 men and 21 women cricketers classified in group A, B and C.

The cycle for new central contract is based on performance and volume of games played during the preceding season.

Two-format skipper Shubman Gill along with senior pacer Jasprit Bumrah and premier Test all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja were retained in group A.

However, the BCCI didn't mention the quantum of retainership fees for the three categories. With A+ being done away, in the earlier seasons, group A was valued at Rs 5 crore, group B at Rs 3 crore annually, and group C at Rs 1 crore.

As far as Kohli and Rohit are concerned, their retirement from Tests and T20Is effectively makes them one-format players and hence as per criteria, they couldn't have been retained in the top-most category.

CENTRAL CONTRACTS

- **Senior Men (Grade A): Shubman Gill, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja.**
- Grade B: Washington Sundar, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Mohd Siraj, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant, Kuldeep Yadav, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer.
- **Grade C: Axar Patel, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Shivam Dube, Sanju Samson, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Dhruv Jurel, Harshit Rana, Varun Chakaravarthy, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Abhishek Sharma, Sai Sudharsan, Ravi Bishnoi, Ruturaj Gaikwad.**
- Senior Women (Grade A): Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma.
- **Grade B: Renuka Thakur, Shafali Verma, Richa Ghosh, Sneh Rana.**
- Grade C: Radha Yadav, Amanjot Kaur, Pratika Rawal, Kranti Gaud, Uma Chetry, Arundhati Reddy, Sree Charani, Yastika Bhatia, Harleen Deol, Kashvee Gautam, G Kamalini, Vaishnavi Sharma, Tejal Hasabnis.

Shami dropped

During the last cycle, 34 players were awarded contracts but this time the list has been pruned to 30. Veteran pacer Mohammed Shami, keeper-batter Ishan Kishan, seamer Mukesh Kumar and Mumbai batter Sarfaraz Khan didn't figure in the list.

Jemimah upgraded

India's World Cup star Jemimah Rodrigues got a promotion from group B to A for her semis show against Australia.

BCCI invites applications for various positions

BENGALURU, DHNS: In order to strengthen India's performance pathway, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday invited applications for multiple coaching and performance-related positions at the Centre of Excellence (CoE) here.

The application invites were called for batting coach (two positions), fast bowling coach (three positions), fielding coach (four positions -- three male, male female) and performance analyst (one position).

The last date for submission of applications is 5pm IST on February 27.

After screening and shortlisting, candidates may be called for personal interviews or further evaluation as deemed appropriate by the BCCI, Secretary Devajit Saikia said in a release.

"The Batting Coaches will support the Head Cricket Coach, BCCI CoE, in the preparation, development, and performance enhancement of batters across all levels, including senior national teams, India A, age-group teams, and state association players," the release stated.

"The role involves delivering specialist batting programmes, monitoring performance objectives, and working closely with national coaches, selectors, and sports science staff to identify and develop India's batting talent."

The fast bowling coaches will be responsible for the technical, tactical, and physical development of fast bowlers training at the BCCI CoE.

"Working alongside the Head Cricket Coach and national coaching staff, the role focuses on specialist fast-bowling programmes, workload management, talent identification, and performance monitoring across senior, developmental, and age-group teams."

The fielding coaches will play a key role in enhancing athleticism, agility, catching, throwing, and overall fielding standards of players attending programmes at the BCCI CoE.

Mitchell Santner

Kiwis look to consolidate top position

CHENNAI, PTI: New Zealand will be eager to consolidate their top position in Group D with a second successive victory when they face the United Arab Emirates in a T20 World Cup match here on Tuesday.

The Kiwis overcame a dangerous Afghanistan by five wickets on Sunday to garner crucial two points, and would now look to maximise their outing against a relatively easier opponent.

The win against the Afghans showcased the utility of New Zealand's long and experienced batting order as they recovered efficiently from a tricky 14 for two while chasing 183 on a slower pitch.

But the Mitchell Santner-led side will want a confidence-boosting outing from Finn Allen and Rachin Ravindra, the two vital cogs in their batting unit. Allen and Ravindra fell to the spin sorcery of Mujeeb ur Rahman in the previous match, and the UAE do not offer the same quality.

Therefore, the two top-order batters will be looking to make a heftier score against the Gulf outfit ahead of the all-important match against South Africa. But one heartening aspect of New Zealand's win over Afghanistan was the prudence shown by Glenn Phillips while steadying the innings after Mujeeb's twin blows.

An earlier version of Phillips would have resorted to brazen aggression to get out of trouble, but here he showed a welcome trait of getting a grip on the conditions and bowlers before freeing his hands.

New Zealand will hope that Phillips, if it gets to that, will play another fine knock to keep him going.

"Glenn's world class. His experience in this country, he's had a lot of success in the last few weeks here playing against a very strong India side. I've got high hopes for him for the rest of the tournament," his teammate Lockie Ferguson had said after the match against the Afghans.

LIVE 3:00 PM, STAR SPORTS

CRICKET T20 WORLD CUP

Clinical South Africa beat Canada

Pacer Ngidi, skipper Markram guide Proteas to an easy 57-run win

AHMEDABAD, PTI

Skipper Aiden Markram led from the front with a flamboyant half-century as South Africa registered a comprehensive 57-run win over Canada in their opening Group D T20 World Cup match here on Monday.

Sent in to bat, Markram blasted 10 fours and a six on way to a 59 off 32 balls. Ryan Rickelton (33), Quinton de Kock (25), Tristan Stubbs (34) and David Miller (39) also made useful contributions as South Africa posted 213 for 4 after being asked to take first strike.

In reply, Canada could manage just 156 for 8 in their stipulated 20 overs with Navneet Dhaliwal (64) emerging as their top scorer.

Canada had a torrid start to their chase, losing skipper Dilpreet Bajwa who edged a Lungi Ngidi (4/31) delivery to wicket-keeper Quinton de Kock in the first ball of the innings.

Thereafter, Dhaliwal and Yuvraj Samra piled up 17 runs in the first two overs before losing two wickets.

Ngidi struck twin blows in the third over, first removing Samra as he edged one to de Kock and then two balls later cleaned up Kirton as Canada slumped to 26 for 3 in 3 overs.

Dhaliwal and Harsh Thaker (33 off 29) shared 69 runs for the fifth wicket to take Canada forward.

But left-arm pacer Marco Jansen (2/30) scalped two consecutive wickets in the 18th over to script the emphatic win.

But the asking rate thereafter as too tall for Canada as they could only manage 156-8.

Earlier, Markram opened the floodgates with three boundaries off Dilon Heyliger in the second over. Quinton de Kock (25 off 22 balls) followed Markram, smashing Saad Bin Zafar for two consecutive fours over long-off.

The duo continued in the same fashion, picking up boundaries and sixes. They stitched 70 runs for the opening stand in just 6.5 overs.

Brief scores: South Africa: 213/4 in 20 overs (Aiden Markram 59, Quinton de Kock 25, Ryan Rickelton 33, David Miller 39 n.o., Tristan Stubbs 34 n.o.; Ansh Patel 3-31) bt Canada: 156/8 in 20 overs (Navneet Dhaliwal 64, Harsh Thaker 33; Lungi Ngidi 4-31, Marco Jansen 2-30). **Result:** SA won by 57 runs. **PoM:** Lungi Ngidi.

Captain Aiden Markram scored a 32-ball 59 in South Africa's 213/4 against Canada during their T20 World Cup group stage match at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Monday. AFP

Scotland crash Italy's T20 WC debut party

KOLKATA, PTI: All-rounder Michael Leask starred with a late cameo and a four-wicket haul after opener George Munsey's attacking fifty as Scotland thrashed debutants Italy by 73 runs in their T20 World Cup Group C match here on Monday.

The left-hander Munsey, who survived a reprieve on 41, dominated the bowling with a fluent 84 off 54 balls (14x4, 2x6) before Leask gave the final flourish with a 22 not out from last five balls, smoking Thomas Draca for two sixes and two fours at the Eden Gardens.

After his quickfire cameo, the off-spinner took a wicket off the first ball of the innings and returned figures of 4/17. Italy folded for 134/9 in 16.4 overs as captain Wayne Madsen did not bat after suffering a shoulder injury earlier in the game.

West Indies, Scotland and England now take the top-three spots in group C, separated by net run-rate. Scotland have played two matches while England and WI have played one each.

Italy's chase began poorly as Leask struck with the very first ball, removing Justin Mosca.

He remained the busiest man on the field, breaking partnerships at crucial moments. JJ Smuts briefly lifted Italy's spirits, taking 23 runs off Brad Wheal's third over with a sequence of 6, 4, 6, while Anthony Mosca added another big hit. Despite losing three wickets inside the first 28 balls, Italy showed fight through Ben Manenti (52 off 31), who scored the country's first-ever T20 World Cup fifty.

Madsen doubtful

Italy captain Wayne Madsen is "doubtful" for the remainder of the league stage after suffering a shoulder dislocation during their 73-run defeat to Scotland in their T20 World Cup debut here, head coach John Davison said.

Brief scores: Scotland: 207/4 in 20 overs (George Munsey 84, Michael Jones 37, Brandon McMullen 41 n.o.) bt Italy: 134 all out in 16.4 overs (Harry Manenti 37, Ben Manenti 52; Michael Leask 4-17, Mark Watt 2-24). **Result:** Scotland win by 73 runs. **PoM:** Michael Leask.

Pak look to exorcise ghosts of the past

COLOMBO, PTI

LIVE 7:00 PM

An unpredictable Pakistan will look to exorcise ghosts of the past when they meet a determined USA, 20 months after being handed an infamous defeat by the same opponents, in the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

During their World Cup debut in the 2024, USA announced their arrival on the big stage with a memorable victory over Pakistan.

Having lost to India in the 2026 opener, USA would be extra motivated for an encore against Pakistan in an evening game at the Sinhalese Sports Club here.

Both teams have work cut out on the batting front.

Pakistan were cruising in their chase of 148 against The Netherlands before a suicidal middle-order collapse.

Thanks to Faheem Ashraf, they got over the line but would be thoroughly shaken by the implosion.

USA had defending champions India under pressure at the Wankhede Stadium but their batters could not complement an impressive bowling performance.

For Pakistan, Babar Azam will be under the scanner having made a comeback in the shortest format.

More from the bat will be expected from opener Saim Ayub as well. Ayub has been more productive as a spinner in the recent past.

Captain Salman Ali Agha feels his players need to handle pressure better than how they did against The Netherlands. "We batted really well. And then they managed to pull wickets down. And then at that time, the pressure came in. And I think we need to absorb pressure better when it comes to these kinds of games.

"It's not easy to start, but once you get in, it's a good wicket to bat on.

"When someone gets in, we need to make sure that person will finish," said Agha, who also needs to deliver with the bat after his move up the order.

USA will be looking for an improved batting effort at the top of the order.

By captain Monank Patel's own admission, they were guilty of playing loose shots in the powerplay against India.

Monank too fell to a soft dismissal.

Led by South Africa-born Shadley Van Schalkwyk, they had a good night with the ball.

However, senior pacer Saurabh Netravalkar had an opening game to forget and would be itching to make an impact against Pakistan.

USA practised in Sri Lanka ahead of the ICC event and are familiar with the conditions.

Question marks remain over the fitness of their pacer Ali Khan who limped off the field against India.

"I thought the intent (with the bat) was a bit missing there because we lost a few wickets initially. But a lot of learning from this game and a lot of positives.

Pakistan's Babar Azam will be under the scanner, having copped criticism for his strike-rate in the first game. AFP

Netherlands eye to convert confidence into points

NEW DELHI, PTI: After pushing Pakistan to the limit, the Netherlands will test its credentials against a quietly dangerous Namibia when the two associate nations meet in a T20 World Cup Group A clash here on Tuesday.

The Dutch arrive in New Delhi with tangible proof that they can unsettle higher-ranked opposition.

After rattling former champions Pakistan in the tournament-opener in Sri Lanka, the Dutch will look to convert that confidence into points when they take on the African nation.

Namibia, by contrast, begin their campaign against a team already battle-hardened, but one whose narrow loss also exposed areas they can target.

For the Netherlands, the 147 they posted against Pakistan was built on scattered contributions rather than a single dominant performance.

Yet, the innings also underlined a recurring concern: the inability to fully capitalise after getting off to decent starts.

LIVE 11:00 AM

IN BRIEF

Siddhanth, Krupa win under-19 chess

▸ Siddhanth Poonja of Sindhi School, Hebbal and Krupa S Ukkali from NPS Rajaji Nagar won the U-19 Open boys and girls titles respectively at the Bangalore Urban District Chess tournament on Sunday, reports DHNS.

Meanwhile, Abhinav Anand from NPS Indira Nagar and Leah R Joseph from St. Paul's School won the U-13 boys and girls titles, respectively.

Atiqa finishes creditable 18th

▸ Indian racing sensation Atiqa Mir thrived in adversity as she jumped as many as 16 places from the back of a world-class grid to finish a creditable 18th in an action-packed Round 2 of the WSK Super Master Series held at the famous Circuit di Napoli, reports PTI from Sarno, Italy.

The 11-year-old, only in her second appearance in the junior category (age 12-14), showed speed and maturity beyond her age in the qualifying to set the sixth fastest time in treacherous wet conditions.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

T20 World Cup: Namibia vs Netherlands **(11 am)**, New Zealand vs UAE **(3 pm)**, Pakistan vs USA **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

SHOOTING

Asian Rifle/Pistol C'Ships: 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team **(day 7, 10:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Bennett, bowlers help Zim sprint past Oman

COLOMBO, PTI: The highly rated Brian Bennett showed his class on the big stage with an unbeaten 36-ball 48 to complement the bowlers' excellent display and power Zimbabwe to an eight-wicket win over Oman in their T20 World Cup match here on Monday.

Opting to bowl, Blessing Muzarabani wreaked havoc with the new ball before his pace-bowling colleague Richard Ngarava joined him in the demolition job to skittle out Oman for 103. The duo of Muzarabani (3/16 in 4 overs) and Richard Ngarava (3/17 in 4 overs) were the most successful bowlers for Zimbabwe as Oman put up an ordinary display with the bat. They were in danger of being bowled out for a much lesser total after slipping to 27 for five in the seventh over.

Pacer Brad Evans also chipped in with 3/18 from 3.5 overs in a brilliant Zimbabwean bowling performance.

Zimbabwe them made a flying start to the chase courtesy of Tadiwanashe Marumani who blazed away to 21 off 11 balls before Wasim Ali pulled off a stunning catch to dismiss the opener.

Brief scores: Oman: 103 all out in 19.5 overs (Vinayak Shukla 28, Sufyan Mehmood 25; Richard Ngarava 3-17, Blessing Muzarabani 3-16, Brad Evans 3-18) lt to Zimbabwe: 106/2 in 13.3 overs (Brian Bennett 48 n.o., Brendan Taylor 31; Sufyan Mehmood 2-12). **Result:** Zim won by 8 wkts. **PoM:** Blessing Muzarabani.

IPL: CM, RCB representatives to hold talks on February 12

BENGALURU, DHNS: With the 19th edition of the Indian Premier League set to commence towards the end of March, there appears to be a thaw between the State government and the Royal Challengers Bengaluru, as the two parties have agreed to discuss issues on hosting matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will lead the government's team, confirmed Home Minister G Parameshwara after meeting a delegation, involving Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) representatives, including president Venkatesh Prasad and Royal Challengers Bengaluru's COO Rajesh Menon.

"A delegation of KSCA and RCB office bearers met me at my home office in Sadashivanagar today regarding the issue of holding an IPL cricket match at the Chinnaswamy Stadium," Karnataka home minister wrote on X.

"A meeting will be held on February 12 and discussions will be held with the Chief Minister." Further dwelling on Monday's discussion with KSCA and RCB delegates, the HM said: "Consultations were held on various issues, including the recommendations of Justice Michael D Cunha's report on necessary security measures at Chinnaswamy Stadium and the completion of the recommendations of the committee headed by the GBA and City Police Commissioner," he wrote.

Man City fight to end Anfield hoodoo

LIVERPOOL, AFP

Erling Haaland's stoppage-time penalty earned Manchester City a dramatic 2-1 win at Liverpool on Sunday to reduce Arsenal's lead at the top of the Premier League back to six points.

City were heading for defeat at Anfield with six minutes to go before Bernardo Silva cancelled out Dominik Szoboszlai's stunning freekick to spark an incredible finale.

Haaland put City in front from the spot before the visitors had another goal ruled out and Szoboszlai was sent off in the same incident after a VAR review.

Victory was City's first away to Liverpool in front of a crowd since 2003 and reapplies some pressure to Arsenal's quest for a first title in 22 years.

Erling Haaland (left) celebrates after scoring Manchester City's stoppage-time penalty against Liverpool in their 2-1 win on Sunday night. AFP

Defeat delivered another blow to Liverpool's hopes of Champions League football next season.

The defending champions remain down in sixth and four points adrift of the top five.

These two clubs have combined to win the last eight Premier League titles, but both showed the flaws which have opened the door for Arsenal to potentially end their long wait to be crowned champions of England once again.

Results: Liverpool: 1 (Szoboszlai 74th) lt to Manchester City: 2 (Silva 84th, Haaland 90+3rd pen).

Mbappe guides Madrid home

VALENCIA, AFP: Kylian Mbappe scored his 23rd goal of the season in La Liga to help Real Madrid claim a battling 2-0 win at Valencia on Sunday and close the gap to leaders Barcelona to one point.

Third-place Atletico Madrid slumped to a 1-0 defeat at home to Real Betis, three days after thrashing the Andalusian side in the Copa del Rey, falling further away from the top two.

Results: Valencia: 0 lt to Real Madrid: 2 (Carreras 65th, Mbappe 90+1st); Alaves: 0 lt to Getafe: 2 (Vazquez 53rd, Arambarri 71st P); Athletic Bilbao: 4 (Guruzeta 29th, 34th, Serrano 86th, Navarro 90+9th) bt Levante: 2 (Elgezabal 81st, Olasagasti 90+4th); Sevilla: 1 (Salas 90+2nd) drew with Girona: 1 (Lemar 2nd); Atletico Madrid: 0 lt to Real Betis: 1 (Antony 28th).

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